

The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training Foreign Affairs Oral History Program  
Foreign Service Spouse Series

MARTHA CALDWELL

Interviewed by: Mary Louise Weiss

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Q: Would you tell me about the circumstances under which you came into the Foreign Service yourself.

CALDWELL: In the Autumn of 1943, I was in the State Department of Education in Missouri and I really wanted to do something in the war effort...something that would be of service. And the State Superintendent of Schools knew I had expressed an interest in the Foreign Service of the United States, and when he was at a meeting in Washington, in the Office of the U.S. Commissioner of Education, who was Mr. Studebaker at the time - Lloyd King, who was Missouri State Superintendent of Schools, picked up an application for the Foreign Service and brought it when he came back to Jefferson City. I talked to my parents about it and the State Department had gotten very good publicity at this time about how their young people were looked after in the Foreign Service. So, My parents thought that if I really wanted to do this, it was fine. I filled out the application - that was in about mid October. In less than a month, in November 1943, I had a letter from the Foreign Service saying that I would be given an assignment in the Foreign Service and to report to Washington immediately (laughs). So after a farewell in the state capitol in Jefferson City, and a farewell my parents gave me in our home, I left for Washington. And I was very lucky in that I had a place to live in Washington. One of my closest friends, Marg Lohman, also wanting to do something in the war effort, but who felt she could not go abroad because she had two brothers in the service who were in areas abroad, came to Washington and was director of one of the houses at Arlington Farms. Arlington Farms, as perhaps all of you know, was housing for government girls working in Washington or waiting for assignments abroad. So I was in Washington - of course I was told to report immediately - I thought I'd be going overseas immediately. I was in Washington five months. And during that time I was given some orientation training and some training in cryptology. And I also had a very good time because Marg and I are great lovers of music and theater. Whenever there was an opportunity, we took advantage of what Washington had to offer. But then in March, I received an assignment to the American Embassy near the governments of Greece and Yugoslavia, then established in Cairo, Egypt. And I was told to report to New York, and I, with about twenty other Foreign Service girls, stayed in a hotel in New York and then we were notified to go to the Navy Yard in Brooklyn, pick up helmets and gas masks and proceed to Hoboken, and to board the ship the M. S. Mauritania. Now the Mauritania had been declared fast enough to go on a solo wartime trip to England, and so we - the captain of the ship to avoid German submarines in the area - went through the very icy waters of the far north Atlantic, and we landed in Liverpool at the end of March.

Q: Was the ship armed in any way, for protection, for its own protection?



CALDWELL: No. It was not. It was just supposed to be fast enough to make the trip. It carried all troops - well, there was an Officers Quarters and the Foreign Service girls were given what had been staterooms and there were ten bunks in each former stateroom. The thing I remember particularly about the trip was the cold rain, and every morning we had to be on deck for a boat drill with a panic bag which we had been told to pack before we left, which was supposed to have some warm clothing and we had some, I don't know, K rations or some kind of food that had been given to us. So with our panic bags we were standing on the deck, and it seemed to rain every morning - very cold. But the crossing went without any disaster. It was really uneventful, except for the cold. I suppose that by doing this zigzag course, we avoided the German submarines.

Q: Did you feel frightened in any way?

CALDWELL: No. I think, you know, I wanted to do this and I was very excited about doing it, and I just felt it would work out. And I really wasn't frightened, amazingly enough. We were in England at a very interesting time. We did not know but we were in England exactly one month before D-Day, which was May 6. At the end of March and the first days of April, we were at Whittington Barracks near the cathedral town of Lichfield, and several of us mentioned to the officers in charge that we'd like to go to London. And we were given a very sharp reply, "No." And of course all preparations were being made for D-Day which was exactly one month away.

Q: They didn't tell you that.

CALDWELL: Oh, no. Absolutely not. We certainly didn't know it. After about eight days at Whittington Barracks - and of course it was all blackout - we were given flashlights that we could have on only at certain times and held to the ground. And there were blackout curtains in the barracks where we stayed. And then after the eight days we were taken back to Liverpool and we were, all of us who were going out in the Foreign Service, boarded the British troop ship, Orion, for the trip through the Atlantic, through the Straits of Gibraltar, into the Mediterranean and on to Port Said. We did have a little excitement soon after we entered the Mediterranean. Apparently the convoy (we were in convoy for this part of the voyage), and apparently the convoy had been sighted by German reconnaissance planes and on two occasions smoke screens were put up that entirely enveloped the convoy. That was a little exciting. Again, I didn't feel afraid. I don't know. I guess I just thought it would all work out and I was very happy I was doing what I wanted to do. So I really was not frightened.

Q: Young enough to accept it all.



CALDWELL: Young enough to accept it. I'm sure I wouldn't do it now. But we arrived at Port Said and then took the train to Cairo. In Cairo we were met by two officers from the embassy and I think they called them Kavass, anyway they handled our luggage. We were divided into two groups: those who were going to stay in Cairo and those who were going to Istanbul to go to other posts as soon as the Germans had left, as soon as the countries were unoccupied. So I was with the group staying in Cairo and we were taken to the Ismaeli Pension and it was right in the heart of Cairo. We were close to the Kasr el Nile, the Bridge over the Nile. On our balcony (we were about the sixth floor) we could see the pyramids of Giza, which I found quite exciting. And we stayed in the Pension about two weeks, but we decided this was not the way we wanted to live for what we knew would be a few months - we didn't know for how long. So Margaret Ezzel and I, after making inquiries about other places to live, moved to a Swiss owned and operated hotel, the Carleton. It was not grand, as one would think of the Ritz Carleton now, even then in Paris, but it was quite a comfortable hotel and it was one we could afford. It was only a few blocks away from the Pension, so we were still more or less in the middle of Cairo. And we lived there for the five months before we went into Greece.

Q: Were you working?

CALDWELL: Yes. Oh, yes. We were. All the girls who stayed in Cairo were in the code room. I felt this was kind of a letdown [laughter] in comparison to what I had been doing, but we knew this was important and had to be done. And I suppose in that sense we enjoyed it and we knew that there were many compensations. There were so many things that we could do when we had any free time. Of course, the first thing we wanted to do was go to Giza. This was when I met Bob, who later became my husband. And because he had been in Cairo with his family when he was about eleven years old and because he had a doctorate in classical archaeology, he was a perfect guide to take us through the monuments of Cairo, Luxor, ancient Thebes. So we did as many things as we could when time permitted. It was not easy to travel around, but we did go to ancient Thebes and saw the monuments there, and got to Alexandria. I had a trip to Jerusalem with the wife of a Foreign Service officer, Sunny Hulick. Bob arrived in Cairo six months before I did, and he had been to Jerusalem with a group of - I think from American University in Cairo - but Sunny and I had a trip to Jerusalem. That was the most traveling we could do because of wartime conditions.

Q: And Bob was assigned to the embassy?



CALDWELL: Right. He was assigned to the embassy, to Greece, but his office was actually in the Legation to Cairo, it was not an Embassy at that time. That was because the Legation needed an accounting officer. Of course Bob had never done accounts in his life. But as one of our archaeological friends said, "Well, with a good classical education, you can do anything." [laughter] And so his first assignment was in accounts. Then we, in November, the first week in November, when the Germans left Athens and went north to Salonika or farther, the Embassy moved into Athens, following the Greek government who went in about two days before we did. We arrived - we went in two groups - most all of us. We were a relatively small group - there were only seven officers and about six girls who were secretaries, who went in, all except Wally Barber who was counselor of Embassy and Bob who stayed behind to close up the Embassy in Cairo. The rest of us went by ship - had a miserable crossing. I'm told that that crossing from Cairo to Athens is always a rough crossing. But Bob and Wally Barber flew in and arrived a day after we did having closed (it took us, I guess, four days to go) having closed the Embassy in Cairo. At that time after Greece had been occupied by the Nazis for five years in World War II, there were very few amenities in Athens. Practically no housing. Our whole staff was housed in the American School of Classical Studies on the slopes of Lycabettos a very beautiful place. We came to love it - Bob had known it before. But the dormitory which had been used by classical scholars (none of whom were at the school at this time because of the war) became the dormitories for the single men and then the other hall for the single women. The married officers lived in the houses. There was a house at the Gennadeion - it's a very famous library and the librarian has a house - this was a complex, if you can visualize it, of marble houses and in the middle, the school. And then the Ambassador and Mrs. MacVeagh had the librarian's house and the counselor of Embassy and Economic Counselor - there were two houses for them. The rest of us lived in Loring Hall and we had a dining room in Loring Hall which was for everyone. The senior officers occasionally had dinner in their own houses but there was very little help, and very little food, actually. [laughter]

Q: But this was an Embassy compound?

CALDWELL: It was an Embassy compound at this time and we had been in Athens only three weeks when the Communist Revolution started. And the girls and the wives of the senior officers were not allowed out of the compound. We did have a lovely garden, a walled garden that connected the school and the houses, and we could at certain times walk in the garden. But we were not allowed to go to the Embassy. The men went. There was quite a bit of sniper fire and shooting. We actually had a bullet go through our dining room, and we all pointed out...

Q: While you were sitting there?



CALDWELL: ...the hole in the wall. We weren't actually in the dining room. And fortunately, no Embassy personnel was hurt. We did have an American who had come into Greece in connection with a future aid mission who was killed at Amonia Square. But we had no casualties. However, we had much shrapnel on our roof as the British planes were shelling the Communist positions on the far side of the Lycabettos and that was rather exciting. We had no electricity. We had no water. There was a well at the back of the school from which all of the men took turns carrying buckets of water. It was not drinkable, and I remember that we used Halizone tablets, and so many were put in the water that it still was not drinkable. So we drank as little water as possible.

Q: Bucket brigade.

CALDWELL: Bucket brigade - absolutely. And there were no showers and of course no tub baths. We had about a teacup of water apiece every morning and that was all. But the "esprit d' corps" was high, and I think this from talking to other people probably usually is true in the Foreign Service and perhaps in other groups, when there is a crisis and things are very tight and there is some danger involved. It seems to draw people closely together. And in the evenings, of course Loring Hall had a beautiful drawing room - big marble mantel over a fireplace (there was no wood for the fireplace) - but we sat with blankets wrapped around our legs and around our shoulders, had candles on card tables, and we often played bridge in the evening or just had conversation. It was a very interesting time which I shall always remember because no one complained although we had very little food and finally as we were running out of food that had been brought with us from Cairo, a plane of rice was flown in from Cairo. And then that was toward the end of the revolution. And I well remember the first fresh food we had. Rodney Young, an archaeologist, (Bob and Rodney had been at Hopkins together)...Rodney had come over in - I've forgotten his exact assignment - he did not come as an archaeologist, he was there in preparation for some aid groups coming in. And Rodney had a jeep and he'd been out in the country and he'd found some carrots, and he brought these carrots into Loring Hall. We thought they were like gold [laughter]. They looked absolutely wonderful. We knew there was little food. In fact, there were Greeks who unfortunately starved at that time because the Nazi occupation had been over such a short time, there was no opportunity to get food into the shops or get the people to grow things. It was a very severe time for all Greeks and our local employees in the Embassy. We tried to share with them, with the local employees.

Q: Could you tell me a little about the work you were doing? The kind of work or...

CALDWELL: What we did at this...

Q: What office you were assigned to?



CALDWELL: Oh well, during the revolution, typewriters were brought to Loring Hall and all the girls who could type were asked to do the reports for the officers. And I think we had the brown code books at that time, and we all did code. Even some of the wives of the senior officers were pressed into service because there was no one at the Embassy, at the Chancery, to do any of this work. So the Ambassador would bring his reports, all the officers would bring whatever they were writing. And we typed and we did coding and decoding of messages.

Q: And these wives who pitched in, were they paid?

CALDWELL: No, no. That was voluntary. No wives were paid. In fact, this was an interesting time in the Foreign Service. Bob and I, after the revolution, which ended toward the end of January, 1945, and all Embassy staff members started looking for housing. Some of the top officers found housing, and then of course the residence which had been in Athens before the war was made ready for the Ambassador. But the single officers also found some apartments. Bob found an apartment in Kalonaki which is a very desirable place to live. It was a small apartment. And then we actually were married in Athens in March. And Bob had gotten the apartment as the other single officers had done early after the revolution was over, so we had an apartment to go to. We were married on March 12th in 1945 in St Paul's Anglican Church in Athens. We have been back to the church many times. It's a very lovely, small church. It's quite small, but it is very, very beautiful. Then after a wedding breakfast at Loring Hall...well I should say Ambassador McVeagh gave me away. One of the girls on the Embassy staff, Ellen Broom, could play the organ so we had music. And after the wedding breakfast at Loring Hall, Bob and I flew on a British aircraft to Rome for a two week trip. The circumstances surrounding that were rather interesting because Ambassador Kirk in Rome had not been at all happy about having people come to Rome. But Athens had had quite a few of his staff, and though we had very little food and very little accommodations to offer, we had taken care of them. And so when Ambassador McVeagh had a cable sent to Ambassador Kirk that Bob and I were coming to Rome, Ambassador Kirk cabled back that we should not come. So Ambassador McVeagh's cable was very succinctly worded that he hoped Roman hospitality would not be inferior to Athenian hospitality.



So we went. And actually we stayed at the Hassler Hotel which, if you know Rome, is one of the loveliest hotels in Rome. It's at the top of the Piazza d'Espagna. But this had been taken over by the American armed forces and the amount we paid per day was infinitesimal. I can't remember whether it was two dollars per day. Later, when we were in Rome, Peggy our youngest, had heard us say that we had stayed at the Hassler, and so she said (she knew where it was) well, she would like to go. So we went for lunch. And I will tell you that the price of lunch for the three of us was as much as our two-weeks at the hotel when we stayed there in 1945. Oh, I should say that after Bob and I were married, I did resign. At that time, wives could not work. The only time I was employed was as a temporary appointment when Bob was assigned on temporary duty to the Consulate General in Salonika. And the Consulate was understaffed. It had only about three people at that time, and it was necessary to have more help. So I was employed on a temporary basis, with permission from Washington.

Q: There were circumstances under which wives could be hired?

CALDWELL: Right. Just for...this was considered an emergency. There was no housing in Salonika. We stayed at a British officers' mess. It was the Mediterranean Palace Hotel which in peace time (we've been back) is a lovely hotel. It faces the bay, looking out at Mount Olympus. But of course, everything was very - what shall I say - it was not posh at all. [laughter] It just had the bare essentials of rooms and then we had British rations for food. However, at that time in Salonika there was a bit of fresh food and some fresh vegetables coming into the town. And we did have an occasional fresh meal. But, not many.

Q: You appreciated it all the more.

CALDWELL: We appreciated it very much. Yes. The American Farm School which was run by missionaries had tried to supply the few of us who were at the consulate with some fresh things and these were very welcome.

Q: I'm sure they were. At this time you were not working any more in the Embassy, but I know that you found plenty to do.



CALDWELL: I was very fortunate because Homer Davis who had been president of Athens College for about twenty years but had to leave Greece during the war and the college had been run by his assistant who was a Greek. Homer Davis asked if I would teach at the college. It was rather an emergency situation because he had no American teachers at the college. It was not possible to get transportation for them. Only official people or people with medical problems, that sort of person could get transportation. No way to get American teachers. So I taught at Athens College for almost two years. I also did volunteer teaching of English to some of the veterans of the Albanian campaign. This again was a request. I never really lacked the things to do because we had made friends when we first went into Greece and they knew that now that I was not working in the Embassy, I was available. So it was very fortunate for me. Also, we were very fortunate in having good friends among the archaeological community. Carl Blegen whom most people know, a most distinguished American archaeologist who excavated Troy and after that Pelos as the Greeks say, the Palace of King Nestor, and Dr. Blegen's wife who is also an archaeologist, had known Bob's family. In fact, Mrs. Blegen and Bob's father had taken their doctorates together at Columbia University. So we were just included as part of their family which was a marvelous thing. And I at one time was able to help Dr. Blegen. He was preparing a manuscript - he was asked to do a rather popular book on archeology, on Troy, and there was no one to help edit and to type some of the manuscript, because he had no secretarial help. That, for me, was extremely interesting. And we went on some trips with them, quite a number actually. Later, we had the opportunity to be in Greece, and Dr. Blegen took Bob and me and our daughter, Peggy, to Pelos and gave us a personal tour of the Palace. That was a fascinating trip which we shall always remember. There was another opportunity at this time which we appreciated. That was getting to know some of the Greek people and getting to know them rather well. Since we were a small group in the Embassy, and because many of the Greeks came to the Embassy for reasons of mainly transportation to the United States or bringing some of their families from the United States, which wasn't really possible, but they would come to inquire. Also there were many remittances (I guess that's what you call it - money) coming from Greeks in the United States to Greeks in Athens or in the countryside of Greece. And of course they all had business in the consular section of the Embassy. And Bob being the most junior officer was in the consular section, and through his work, we had an opportunity to meet outstanding Greek people who are still friends. In fact, they have visited us in several of our posts, and they visit us here in Washington. Some of the people we first met in Athens were Mary Carolou and her husband Chris Carolou. Chris' mother had been lady-in-waiting to Queen Olga of Greece. And then later, Mary was lady-in-waiting to Queen Frederika. But we got to know them because of their family connections in the United States. And at this time in Greece it was possible to make lasting friendships. In fact, Mary has visited us several times and she is coming to Washington next week. At her house, we were invited to tea. There were only six of us, and we met Princess Nicholas (Princess Helen). This was a continuing friendship. Princess Nicholas was a Romanoff and much admired by the Greeks. She was one of the few members of the Royal Family who stayed in Greece all during the Nazi occupation. And she was much loved by all the Greeks. And it was a rare opportunity to get to meet her in a small group. And on several occasions afterward to be in her house, and to have tea in her garden with just a few people. We treasured that friendship. Also, we met Prince Philip's mother, Princess Alice, in similar circumstances, just a few of us at tea. I mention this because now, with the embassy having so many staff members and officers, it is not possible in the same way to get to know some of the Greek people with whom we did form lasting friendships at that time. Also, we had other friends from the archaeological community which meant a great deal to us. Shirley Weber was the librarian at the Gennadeion. He and Elsa were great friends of ours. And Dr. Bert Hodge Hill, I suppose at that time, our most distinguished American archaeologist who excavated at Corinth for many years, was a close friend. As a matter of fact, when we were looking for a different place to live from the apartment, Mrs. Blegen asked us to live in their house for six months. Dr. Blegen and Mrs. Blegen spent six months at the University of Cincinnati and six months in Greece every year. While they were going to be in the States, Mrs. Blegen suggested that we come and live in their house. The servants would all be there, we would all be taken care of beautifully, and then we could be looking for a house. These were six wonderful months in Athens. And the house at 9 Plutarchou, was a well-known marble house of four stories and beautifully furnished with a magnificent archaeological library, as well as a smaller library of popular books. Agatha Christie was a good friend of the Blegens. She was married of course to Dr. Mallowan, an archaeologist. So all of her books were there and many other popular books. It was just a marvelous house to live in. Later we met Agatha Christie in Pakistan, but that's getting ahead of the story. The only time in our whole Foreign Service career that Bob and I really were separated of necessity was when we were expecting our first child. The Greek doctors had been isolated during the war years from all advanced medical knowledge, and they felt there was a problem. So I came home in December of 1946 and Bob followed in March of 1947.



Q: A year later.

CALDWELL: Three months. Our son, Wally, was born in Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri in April of '47, and when he was two-months old, we took him back to Greece. We had another year and a half in the Embassy in Greece.

Q: And then Bob was transferred?

CALDWELL: Right. Bob was transferred directly from Athens to Dublin, to the Embassy, to Ireland, well to Dublin, Ireland. We were in Dublin for four-and-a-half years. At this time, again, in Dublin we had the opportunity in our free time, to meet some of the archaeologists. And one memorable occasion, I think, in that connection was a visit of Sir Leonard Wooley to Dublin. Sir Leonard, of course, was the excavator of Ur and when we heard that he was coming to give a lecture at the Royal Dublin Society, we telephoned Reggie Ross Williamson in the British Embassy, who had excavated with Sir Leonard in Ur and asked if there was anything being done for Sir Leonard after the lecture. There wasn't, so Bob and Reggie decided that we would have a party and invite the archaeological community of Dublin. Since Reggie lived in the country, the party was at our house, which was only a few minutes from the Royal Dublin Society, and this was our first opportunity to meet any of the archaeologists in Dublin. One person, I think, is interesting to note who came to the party, was a Dr. Gwynn, a Gaelic scholar who had an actual ear trumpet. I had heard of ear trumpets all my life, but I didn't know that people actually used them. But he had a trumpet at his ear that you had to talk in. I found that this was quite fascinating. [laughs]

Q: Historical.

CALDWELL: Yes.

Q: Did you become active yourself in archaeological community?



CALDWELL: I did, in one way. Not as active as we had been in Athens, perhaps. But in Dublin at that time many senior officials of the government, even bankers and so on, didn't have cars. They used bicycles. And there were several rescue operations for the museum in which the curator of the museum had no way to get to these sites. And if Bob was busy, I sometimes took several of the archeologists. I remember one of the rescue operations was a Viking boat from the bogs. And it was extremely interesting to see how this had to be treated so carefully when the air touched it because it had to be immediately immersed, as I remember, in glycerine. But these were fascinating times. I did not do much in Ireland in a volunteer way, because the Irish really did not want the diplomatic community to help in their hospitals or with any kind of welfare work because they wanted to take care of their own. There was very little opportunity to do any kind of special service in Ireland. But it was a wonderful place to live. Of course Wally was about a year and a half when we went to Dublin. Our second child, George, was born in Dublin. And, of course, there is an old saying that I think is true, that Ireland is a wonderful place to rear children and also for horses and dogs. [laughter] Ireland had beautiful dogs. The dog show at the Royal Dublin Society was a highlight of the social calendar.

Q: Did you have a dog or a horse?

CALDWELL: We had a dog, we didn't have a horse. [laughter] But we did enjoy the races. We made some very good friends in Ireland with whom we kept in touch over the years, and now two of these friends have died and we are in touch with their children - both in Ireland and with those who have come to the States. And that was a very satisfying experience.

Q: Bridge to the next generation.



CALDWELL: Right. From Dublin, Bob was transferred to Copenhagen. Copenhagen was our longest assignment. We were there for five and a half years, which seems almost unbelievable. I don't think it could happen now. But Bob went as an officer in the political section and then was asked to be a labor attaché<sup>1/2</sup>. At that time, in the Eisenhower administration, there were certain positions that were cut out, but that did not mean the Foreign Service officers job was. I mean his position - he was not fired, in other words. So the labor attaché<sup>1/2</sup> post was cut, but Bob was asked to be Consul General in the Embassy in Copenhagen, so we stayed another two and a half years. And it was a wonderful posting. I remember arriving in December, about the middle of December, and Copenhagen in the snow, was decorated for Christmas. I always think of what Karen Blixen wrote that Copenhagen looks dressed in her best ball gown as the little white lights sparkled all across - a garland across the streets, and it was just like a fairyland. It was absolutely lovely. In Denmark we had many happy experiences and we got to know, I would say, Danish people in almost all strata of society. And this was extremely interesting. Again, there was not much opportunity for any kind of volunteer service. The Danes are a very proud people and they did not - just like the Irish - they did not want the diplomatic community helping. However, with a few Embassy wives, I did work a bit with crippled children. And every year we had, the American wives from the Embassy and Americans in the community - business people - had a bazaar, and the money from that went to help crippled children. That we were able to do. Otherwise, it was not very much that we could do as a service to that community.

Q: Were your children in school there?



CALDWELL: Yes. Interestingly enough, our children went to Danish school. There was an American school in Copenhagen, but it was, at that time, not very well run, and we were anxious for our children to get to know Danish children and to learn the Danish way of life, as well as to feel American. But we thought we could provide the American feeling. And so Wally was five years old and went to a Montessori kindergarten. And he learned Danish and went right into Danish school in the first grade. He had four years in Danish school Tranegaard, and his teacher paid him a great compliment, Frau Frokenmeyer, because the Danes usually feel that no outsider can speak Danish like a Dane, but she told us that (and Wally made "UG" which is the top grade in all his subjects) and Frau Frokenmeyer said that if you didn't know Wally was an American boy, you would think he was Danish born. His Danish was so good. George was very small, of course, and he went to Billehave, which was first nursery school and then kindergarten, And again, learned Danish, and Bob and I took Danish lessons, but the boys would roll on the floor laughing when they heard us speak our Danish because ours was very poor compared to theirs. Bob said he thought when he heard the boys speaking Danish in their sleep, that was a test that they really knew Danish. And Peggy was born in Copenhagen. I should mention this. Our youngest was born in Copenhagen, and again a wonderful place for children. We made (I mentioned making good friends in Denmark). It was for us a very satisfying feeling (of course Peggy was too small) that the boys had their playmates and their friends were Danish children. They met American children in social affairs and liked them, but their main friends were the sons of Danes. And it was a wonderful experience for the boys and for us.

Q: They were really immersed, then?

CALDWELL: They were immersed in Danish and (I'll tell you later about our posting in Pakistan) but we said we probably were the only American family ever to encourage their children to read comic books. But when we went to Pakistan, our very wonderful Finnish maid whom we had for five years in Copenhagen, was so devoted to the children. Toni sent comic books to the boys in Karachi. And of course the comic books were in Danish, and we encouraged them to read them because it helped them to keep their Danish for a while. Of course they didn't keep it forever, but it was a wonderful experience for them.

Q: Were you studying Danish yourself?



CALDWELL: Yes. Bob and I yes, we took private lessons, and then, I guess, after our first year in Copenhagen, the Embassy had employed a teacher and we took Danish lessons. And we did speak Danish. Bob's Danish was different from mine. He had the kind of vocabulary with which he could talk to Danish professional people or business people or go to the Parliament and understand officials. Mine was more of a household type. I did have to speak Danish socially occasionally because some of the wives of professional men had not learned English to the point that they could carry on much of a social conversation. I struggled with it. I wasn't too good, but I did manage. However, I mainly used it for shopping and in household ways.

Q: As many of us do.

CALDWELL: Yes.

Q: Were you involved in any way in the schools - in your children's schools?

CALDWELL: In Karachi, yes. Perhaps I should say that our next post after Copenhagen was Karachi. We had been, at the end of our tour in Copenhagen, we had been abroad for fifteen years without a home assignment. So we really expected a post here in Washington. Bob had a call from the State Department asking if he would go as labor attaché<sup>1/2</sup> to Karachi. The Embassy had no person in Labor Affairs. The AID mission had a man from the Labor movement and it was felt that there was a need for a person in the Embassy who could work not only with people in the Labor Movement but with employers and government. So Bob and I discussed it and said yes, but only a two year assignment. That will be seventeen years, and we needed for our children to go home.

Q: May I ask. Did you have home leaves on a regular basis during this period?



CALDWELL: Yes. Well, yes we did. Of course Copenhagen - we were three years before home leave. but normally we had home leave after two years but not a Washington assignment. But in Karachi I was on the Board of Education, the School Board. It was an international school but we had an American principal of the school and the curricula were based on the American system, and I was on the School Board. Bob and I both worked with Scouts - Bob with Boy Scouts and I with Cub Scouts with our children. We were in Pakistan from 1958 to 1960. And though partition of India was 1948, there were still many, many refugee colonies in Karachi. And there was very little work for many of these people. One of the things I did in Karachi which I felt was not only interesting for me, but perhaps was a small contribution to the society of Pakistan, was to be a part of a small group helping the refugees to earn enough money to support themselves and their families. What started out to be just a pleasure for me doing stone rubbings from the Mugal Emperor tombs in Thatta turned out to be a very good thing for giving employment to the refugees. The designs from these Mugal Emperor tombs were very beautiful. Although they were Mugal tombs, some had been Rajputs who had been converted to the Muslim faith; they still kept some of their Rajput tenets. So there were some stones that had very beautiful designs of animals, which, of course, the Muslims would not have done. And then other tombs had designs of jewelry of chieftains wives. So when - there were about four of us who - we would go whenever we could find the time to Thatta - it was in the Sind desert, about sixty miles from Karachi. And of course the climate is so hot, and in the Sind desert it was blistering hot - 120 degrees, perhaps. There were times we would leave Karachi - four of us in the morning- at four o' clock in order to be in Thatta in time to do some rubbings before the sun became unbearable.

Q: Was that a distance from where you were living.



CALDWELL: About sixty miles from Karachi. And when we would do a rubbing of a chieftains wife's jewelry, we would do an extra one, and we gave it to Dorothy Habib, an American girl married to a Pakistani doctor. She had started a cottage industry to give work to some of the Muslim refugees. So we gave designs to Dorothy. These were actually, not the jewelry - we gave those designs to the silversmiths, and they did reproduce this jewelry and they sold it and from that got enough income to really help them live. The other designs, which were medallions and beautiful lotus designs, we gave to Dorothy, and her workmen - some of them were skilled enough to cut woodblocks - and they were weaving cloth (it was called a cudder cloth) and they used our designs to blockprint materials. These were sold to the banks for draperies, to private houses as upholstery materials or cushions or wall hangings. And it was a very satisfying thing to be able to help these people in that way. We also did an extra rubbing every time we made one to give to the museum. The designs were being partially destroyed because in the desert the wind and the sand, working as abrasives, were destroying some of these very beautiful designs. So as a preservation project we gave a copy - not a copy - a rubbing to the museum. Shortly before we left, the director of the museum, Dr. Kahn, who had become a good friend of ours - we had been with him to his excavation at Bambour and various places - had a presentation ceremony where we formally presented these rubbings to the museum and they were exhibited. And the American ladies were thanked for doing this to help preserve these designs.

Q: Are these some of the designs I see hanging on your wall?

CALDWELL: They are indeed. Some are from Pakistan. Others are Hindu and Buddhist, and so on, and some from Ethiopia. The ones you see are mostly from Pakistan.

Q: I remember an exhibit you gave of your rubbings.

CALDWELL: That was in India.

Q: The exhibit was here in Washington [garbled].

CALDWELL: Oh, in the Smithsonian, right. They were from Pakistan. I had forgotten that. You're absolutely right. I, with Jane Bunting, was asked to exhibit. Now stone rubbings by the way, I must say, are very different from brass rubbings - they have no connection with brass rubbings. The Smithsonian Institution asked us to exhibit our designs from the Mugal Emperor tombs. So we did have an exhibition at the Smithsonian, and those rubbings were taken on a two year traveling exhibition of the Smithsonian going to about ten cities all across the United States.



Q: That's wonderful.

CALDWELL: I had forgotten...

Q: Talents have spread...

CALDWELL: [laughter] That was fun.

Q: So in Pakistan, you were predominantly working on this, doing this craft work?

CALDWELL: Well, predominantly. However, I was on School Board and then I, with other American wives, helped at a clinic where we dispensed medicines to women, mostly pregnant women, and to underprivileged children. And we worked along with the Pakistani on that.

Q: This was a Pakistani project?

CALDWELL: It was a Pakistani project, a Pakistani clinic.

Q: And then from Karachi, you had...?

CALDWELL: We had a home assignment. Bob came back as Ceylon desk officer in the State Department and we were in Washington four years. Those four years were, of course, very interesting in that we had many associations with the Ceylonese community and enjoyed them very much. We were also quite busy with three children. Wally was in junior high, George in elementary school, and Peggy in nursery school and kindergarten. So of course our lives were very busy with the children's activities. But also we were involved in quite a few diplomatic functions, and we enjoyed that posting very much.

Q: Were you involved with the AAFSW at all?



CALDWELL: Oh, yes. I was on the Board for a while. I was on the Board for two years and was quite active in AAFSW - enjoyed it tremendously. I remember with great pleasure being on the Board during the time the Secretary of State was The Honorable William Rogers, and his wife, Adele, was very active in the Foreign Service wives group. And being on the Board, we occasionally had lunches to which Mrs. Rogers came. She was a delightful person. She and her husband were both Cornellians. The Caldwells are Cornellians for a hundred years. And she would do such nice things as to say, "I'm going up for a Board of Trustees meeting. Would you like for me to call Wally?" By that time our eldest son was in Cornell. But we got to know the Rogers quite well and that was very wonderful for us. They are delightful people.

Q: They were both very supportive.

CALDWELL: Very supportive. And also at that time, the Secretary was very supportive of some other work that I'll go into later that Bob was doing. Yes, he was very supportive of all facets, I would say, of the Foreign Service, in addition to all his duties as Secretary of State.

Q: And as I remember, she was one Secretary's wife who came to every function she could.

CALDWELL: She certainly did. And while I was on the Board, one year, Ann Penfield was president of AAFSW, and she asked me to be in charge of the ball on the eighth floor of the State Department for the Embassy children in Washington and the Foreign Service children. And Mrs. Rogers, at our invitation, came to the ball. We were just delighted. The Secretary was out of town, or she had indicated that he would have come. But it was delightful to have her, and she talked to these young people - the ones from our foreign embassies and our Foreign Service young people, and was just so - she had such rapport with these young people that it was quite impressive.

Q: Very at ease.

CALDWELL: Very much at ease. From Washington, we were assigned to the American Consulate General in Madras, India. We were in Madras for four and a half years and we grew to love south India. We found the people extremely friendly and relatively easy to get to know and to work with, and we enjoyed those four and a half years very much. I will talk about some of the pleasant things first, and then we did have one unhappy experience which I do want to record. But in India, we had the first time in our Foreign Service career in which we left a child in the States in school. Wally, our eldest, was...would have been in Woodrow Wilson High School, but being posted in India, of course, he would have to go to boarding school.



Q: Excuse me. How old was he then? Was he beginning high school?

CALDWELL: He would have been second year of high school. So he would have been, what, fourteen, I guess? I had to stop and think when he was in second year.

Q: So this was the second year.



CALDWELL: So he went to Woodbury Forest, a prep school near Orange, Virginia. It's an excellent school, and it's in historic Virginia. The school is built on the estate of Thomas Madison, the brother of James Madison. The Madison House is still there, and when Wally was in school, it was used as the Headmaster's house. However, Baker Duncan became Headmaster, and decided - he had an independent income - decided to build a house for the Headmaster because he felt the Madison House always should be open to parents, students, and visitors. He felt that a Headmaster, particularly like himself and his wife with young children, just couldn't have the house open and available to every visitor. So it now is open to the visitors and parents when they go to Woodbury Forest. George was with us and he went to...he was in his last year of elementary school (he would have been eighth grade)...so he went to the Hill Station of Kodaikanal. It was an American school. The school had been originally established as a school for missionary children. But it was expanded to include the children of diplomats and business people. And the Hill Station of Kodaikanal was 7,500 feet in elevation, where as of course, Madras we were sea level. The trip from Madras by car was a long, ten hours until one reached the bottom of the Ghat - the Ghat being the long, winding mountain road, which took an hour. The first nine hours were very hot and tiring. But the school was well run. It was run, of course, on the American system, and George spent a year there and then he came home and he chose Woodbury Forest as the prep school he wanted to go to. So he went to Woodbury Forest. Peggy was in school in Madras in an international school, but it was run on the British system and most of the children were British children. So she went two years to Harrington House but at the end of that time, the British sent their children home to England to school, and so we then sent Peggy to Kodaikanal to school for the remaining two years that we were in Madras. And we felt that it was a good education. We did feel it was necessary for the boys, at their level of schooling, to come home, because we felt that they probably could not get quite the same caliber of education in the senior grades as they could in an American prep school. But India was a very rewarding post in that it was very active. And we, in going to India, knew that the house, Bower, was a rather lovely residence. And Bob and I talked it over and decided that we wanted to have on our walls some American Art. We had the feeling, and it turned out to be true, that most Indians, even the well-educated and rather cosmopolitan ones would know about French, German, even Russian art, English art, but really didn't know that America had any art. So through the National Gallery in Washington, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and our other fine galleries, we selected reproductions of American art covering a really three-hundred year period. In other words, it was just a survey of American art. But these were excellent reproductions and made an interesting collection. Entering the front door was a very wide at least...it would be eight feet wide...hall that went the length of the big house. Perfect place to hang the paintings. And we really had a gallery of American art. And many Indians commented on this and two that I remember asked to borrow two of the pictures because they were beginning art work. These were the wives of prominent business people. They wanted to try to paint these paintings. Well, luckily, before we bought the big reproductions, I had gotten smaller ones, so we could choose what we wanted to take, and I was able to give them the smaller reproductions - I didn't have to take the big painting off the wall. But in that connection, I also was invited to lecture on American art at several of the colleges in Madras. And I enjoyed doing this. It was through the files at USIS and through our own slides, I was able to have an illustrated talk. Without it, it would have meant very little to the Indians. But with an illustrated lecture on American art, it meant a great deal. And I enjoyed doing that.



Q: I was going to ask were these reproductions you had in your home there...through the Art in Embassy Program?

CALDWELL: No. Unfortunately, they were not. I think that through the Art in Embassy Program we would have had originals, but these were ones we purchased ourselves and were reproductions. But they were such fine quality. I remember one instance, Mrs. Bowles the wife of our ambassador in New Delhi, was at our house to lunch, and after lunch she and I sat in the hall (we had couches in the hall) and she was looking at a Marin, and thought it was an original "The Isles of Maine" and I was so pleased. It was a reproduction from the Philips Gallery in Washington, but it looked so like the original. And I said, "Thank you very much, although I'm afraid we couldn't afford the original." [laughter] But they were quite fine reproductions.

We were able to help some young artists in Madras, which gave us pleasure. And it really was a help to them in their work. We had an exhibition of the work of about seven young artists...had in our house...had an exhibition of their art. And then they were beginning to do batiks and they were doing very good work, but they couldn't sell the batiks. And the Indian community didn't seem to know much about this form of art and didn't buy it. So what we did was to have an exhibition in the garden of their batiks. They brought all their equipment and they demonstrated the making of a batik - had a beautiful, sunny day for it, which was lovely - and the garden was a very big garden, so we could have a big exhibition. And then we took down our paintings and hung their paintings in the house. They sold a great many. We had about 450 women (I don't think there were any men). We invited the Indian community of these outstanding women...we had about 450...and we called it...like in America we'd have a silver tea, and of course in the house tea, coffee, and cold drinks and cakes and so on were served. And then they could see the art and they could see the batiks in the garden. This stimulated a great deal of interest in these young artists.

Q: It really launched their...

CALDWELL: We helped them launch their batiks and acquainting the Indian people with what this form of art is. So it was something we enjoyed and it was a help to these young artists. We got to know them quite well. On the other side, talking about art, again on the stone rubbings. I am interested in stone rubbings because of historical importance of them, and of course in Pakistan the, I guess, preservation of the designs and also using the designs to help people. But in India, it was mostly the historical significance of the rubbings that interested me. One of the ones that I was asked to do came as a request from the Yale family in Wales. Elihu Yale was governor of Madras and while he was there he was married to an Indian lady. He and his wife had a son who died at age four. (End of Tape 1)



Q: ...about Elihu Yale.

CALDWELL: Ambassador Bowles had had a letter from the Yale family in Wales asking if he could get someone to find the tomb in Madras in which the four-year old son of Elihu was buried, and if possible, have someone make a rubbing of the stone. The Yale family particularly wanted to know if Elihu had used the Yale family crest. And no one...

Q: The child's tomb...you mean the child had died...

CALDWELL: At age four. But the tomb was not a child's tomb. It was a standing pyramidal tomb, which of course I didn't know, but the brother of Elihu Yale's wife had died, and this monument was used for the tomb for the brother and then for Elihu's son. So, we did not know where the tomb was. There seemed to be no records, except, I went to the church in Fort St. George and looked at the records, and there had been an old cemetery in what was called the Guava Garden. So after many excursions in the area of the High Court in what I thought was the location of the old Guava Garden, we found this tomb. I was looking for a low stone. I didn't know that it was this pyramidal tomb. And yes, the coat of arms of the Yale family had been used. So I did a rubbing of it and through Ambassador Bowles, sent it to the Yale family, and also made a rubbing for Yale University which I was told was hanging in the library at Yale University. I haven't been to Yale since I sent that. [laughter] Also, in Fort St. George, since Elihu Yale was governor of Madras, and attended church at St. Mary's in the fort, they had a history corner about Yale, and asked that I do a rubbing for the history corner of the church. Our daughter Peggy was in India this summer, and to her surprise, the rubbing is still hanging in the history corner of St. Mary's Church in Fort St. George. [laughter]

Q: So you left your mark in many places.



CALDWELL: You asked if all the rubbings were from tombs. Most of them were, actually, in India - these were not exactly tombs, but they were Buddhist Muslim, and Hindu temples. Actually, these Hindu temples are ones that are no longer in use as places of worship. They have been declared monuments. Otherwise I would not have been allowed to do rubbings. Also, there was an old Dutch cemetery at Fort Geldria in south India that was about 35 miles south of Madras. And so I did some rubbings from those stones which were early Dutch settlers in India. One that was not a tomb and I thought was quite interesting was from the palace of Tipu Sultan in the Fort of Bangalore which is in Mysore state in south India. And of course that was one of the four states of south India that were our consular district. This inscription is really calligraphy in stone - beautiful calligraphy. It relates the defeat of Tipu Sultan by the British general Cornwallis. And this defeat forced Tipu Sultan to cede most of the Malabar coast to the British. Cornwallis won this battle; unlike his defeat at Yorktown. And I thought that was most interesting. I enjoy the historical aspect of the rubbings. While we were in Madras, I was asked to give exhibitions of these rubbings in the capitols of the four southern states and also in the archaeological museum in New Delhi. The director of the museum in New Delhi called the director in Madras and asked if I had done a rubbing of the stone, the Chakravati Mendhatl had, and he asked especially that that be included in the exhibition. And as the director of the museum in Madras knew, that stone had never been let out of the museum in Madras, and in New Delhi they wanted to be able to exhibit and show it to the people in that part of India. Chakravati Mendhata meant Emperor of the World and his seven jewels, and those seven jewels included his queen and his prime minister, his horse, his orb, sign of his office, and his elephant and gavel as well as coins raining down from heaven, which he was distributing to his subjects. So it was very interesting to know that the Indians wanted to see the reproduction of their own Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, and Early Christian monuments. And I enjoyed doing that. Another thing while we were in Madras...Bob and I were both asked to lecture on the USIS University Program. And at that particular time, I was asked to lecture on the role of women in the United States. I had to do a lot of work on that.

Q: What year was this?

CALDWELL: That was 1967. We were in Madras from 1964 to '68, and that would have been about 1967. While we were in India, all the wives of the Embassy were asked to help in many social welfare programs. We worked alongside the Indian women in their bazaars for raising money to help the underprivileged and there were also leper colonies, and so on. But another project that the American consulate general wives did, and I participated in this weekly, was to distribute milk. Milk was brought into the country by one of our own American organizations - I think it was the Care Program - and we went out to villages and distributed milk to pregnant mothers and young children. And one thing about it that had never occurred to me, but I was told that we must make the women and the children sit down and drink the milk in front of us. If they went out of the compound where we were distributing the milk, they would sell it. And so we had to see that they drank it right there.



We left India in 1968 for a posting in the Department of State. Bob was assigned to the Office of Public Affairs. I think one of the most interesting things that we did on this assignment was that I was able to participate a bit - Bob and I more or less worked as a team in things as much as we could and enjoyed it. And Bob started the Scholar Diplomat Program for the Department of State. In this program which he had worked out with the various universities all over the United States, relatively young professors of political science were brought into the Department of State to see first hand the making of Foreign Policy. And they had been security cleared and the arrangements had been worked out with each university because there was no sponsoring, no money from the State Department in paying these young professors' transportation or their living expenses in Washington. So the universities were very much a part of the program in that they supported it and they wanted their professors to have this experience. Bob and I always had a meeting of the group - they kept the group small - usually about sixteen or less and so that we always provided a get-together, a small party for the scholars when they first came to Washington, so they would get to know each other and we would get to know them. This program was so successful that it has continued in the Department of State for over 15 years.

Q: Is it still running?

CALDWELL: It is. It's tapering off, now. But it is still going. In fact, this would be twenty years, but it is tapering off now.



Earlier in the interview, I had mentioned that while we were in India that I would talk about one unpleasant experience. And that happened during the Hindi riots, as they were called. This was a language riot. It was when there was a great movement in India to make Hindi the official language of all India. Well the south, which is composed of Madras state, Mysore state, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala - those four states did not want Hindi as their language. They wanted their own languages. We had been in Trivandrum on an official visit to the Consulate. We knew that there were riots in parts of south India. But the police in Trivandrum checked with the consulate and said that it would be perfectly safe for us to drive from Trivandrum to Madras. Well, we had been only about an hour out of Trivandrum when we came to a small village of Gudulur. And there a mob encircled our car and sat on the car, beat it with sticks, smeared paint on it, threw a big rock through the windshield, and it was a terrifying experience. Peggy was with us, and she was only nine years old. We were trying to inch our way through the mob without injuring anyone. We finally got to the end of the village where there was a police station. We went in - all the policemen were having their siesta - but we were able to rouse them and they got a truck, and with police on both sides of the truck, policemen with rifles, they escorted us back through the village. And of course as they started to escort us back, no one was in sight - everyone had disappeared. But they escorted us back through the village to a back road leading to the High Range (a British tea center) to Top Station. On the road a sign said, "an impassable road". So we had a hazardous journey in the dark to the High Range Club where, with the help of some British people who were staying at the Club - they made room for us to spend the night in the Club. The next day we made our way to Kodaikanal and after a day to recuperate went back to Madras. [laughter]

Q: Was it about five hours back?

CALDWELL: It was about five hours back from Gudulur to Kodai. It was a long trip and we literally moved boulders out of the road and fair-sized logs to get through the roads. It was an excruciating experience. And a very terrifying experience for a nine year old little girl.

Q: From Washington you were assigned to Addis Ababa.



CALDWELL: Yes. We were assigned to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. That was in 1972 and we were in Ethiopia from 1972 to 1976. Ethiopia was a fascinating assignment for all of us. Peggy was with us. She did not want to stay home in boarding school and there was an American school in Addis. And so she had three years of high school in Addis Ababa in the American school. The first year was not so good but the last two years a new staff came - they were well qualified. She had a good education and was valedictorian and was accepted at Cornell after her high school experience in Ethiopia. In Addis I had an opportunity to work in a number of welfare volunteer jobs. One was with the leprosarium. About ten miles out of Addis Ababa there was a very fine hospital for lepers. The chief surgeon was an Indian, Dr. Ernest Fritchie. We had known some of Dr. Fritchie's family in Madras and so he and his wife had been told we were coming to Addis and they immediately invited us to dinner. They had a house on the grounds of the leprosarium and so right from the beginning, I began as a volunteer at the leprosarium. What we did - there were several of us who got involved, Embassy wives - was to try to help the patients at the leprosarium do something in the way of handcrafts that would enable them to earn some money, so that when they were dismissed from the hospital, they would have some means of livelihood. There were about four of us who went regularly to the leprosarium and we taught them macrame, among other handcrafts. It was a revelation to me that these - they were both women and men (we worked mostly with the women) - most of them had only stubs, I mean very short stubs for fingers. The disease had eaten away their fingers. The same thing had happened to many of them with their toes. But they could take these yarns for macrame and weave the designs we taught them. Also they could do beautiful embroidery. The wife of our Embassy doctor had been trained as a home economist, and she was able to show the women how to cut the fabrics they wove. They actually wove a rather rough but pleasant cotton material. Sue Babcock gave them patterns for cutting blouses and tops for wearing with slacks that could be sold, primarily to Westerners but also to some Ethiopians. One of the things...two things we felt we accomplished: one was that we were able to disseminate information that leprosy is not communicable through...it is communicable only by constant contact with the disease. Therefore, these for instance, the tops and the blouses, after they were carefully washed in boiling water, I might say, were quite safe to be worn, and any handcrafts were quite safe to be used. One thing to promote the sale of these, I had a coffee. We had a large Embassy house and garden, and Dr. Fritchie's wife, Manu, brought quantities of handcrafts that the patients at the hospital had woven or had embroidered or had sewed. It was a beautiful day in Addis as most days are. So we had a big exhibition of the handcrafts in the garden. We had coffee, tea, and cold drinks in the house. And we had several hundred women who came and who bought these handcrafts, and the money went to help these patients in the hospital. And we felt we had done two things: we had been able to help these patients to earn a little money; we also helped to get out the information that it was quite safe to buy these things. Later, not because of us, but with a little help from us and from the officials from the leprosarium, we obtained an outlet in the town of Addis where these things were later sold in a shop. But we did initiate this and we felt very happy about that. I also worked with the blind in Ethiopia. There were a number of blind students at the University and I was asked by - we had a friend we had met at the University - and he asked if I would help with teaching some of these blind students. And I did enjoy that. I felt it was an interesting experience for me and it did help them get through their years at the University.



Q: Your husband was assigned to ten countries - accredited to ten countries in East Africa when you were there. Did that offer opportunities for you to travel with him?

CALDWELL: Yes. Fortunately it did. The first year we were there, I didn't travel with him because Peggy was in high school and it was difficult for her to miss school and it was difficult for me to leave her. But she came back to Cornell University and I did travel with Bob. I traveled to all ten countries. Several of the countries I went to more than once. I grew to know how great a country East Africa is, how varied it is, how much natural beauty it has, and to get to know people slightly - not as well, of course, as I did in Ethiopia - but to get to know some of the people of each of these countries. We were fortunate to have a weekend where we could occasionally on our trips to Kenya, go to the game parks. And, of course, this is something everybody enjoys. Before Peggy left for Cornell, we did manage a trip to the game parks with her and to some of the other countries of East Africa. In Kenya, too, I would like to mention (I had talked about Karen Blixen when we were in Denmark) I did go to Karen Blixen's "farm" in Nairobi in the Ngong Hills and I was delighted with this opportunity. Of course this section of Nairobi is now called Karen for Karen Blixen, and it is not a farm but you can see the rolling hills and you can imagine what it was like. And the house is charming - I was really fascinated by that. This was a unique opportunity to see East Africa. Also we had, perhaps, a unique opportunity in Ethiopia, to visit a great deal of the country, which the people who came to the Embassy after our second year there were really not able to do because when Haile Selassie was deposed, revolution followed, after which the military government came into power and there was so much guerilla fighting and unrest in all parts of Ethiopia that we were not allowed to go outside the city. In fact, it wasn't too safe in the city. I remember on one trip when Bob had gone to one of his other countries and I did not go, I would go to the Embassy to collect the mail, but on several occasions Bob's secretary would call and say, "Don't come because stones are being thrown by all the boys at the Prince Makonin School..." [which we had to pass to get to the Embassy]. When we were driving in Addis during those months, every time we saw a person on the street bend down, we accelerated because we were sure they were picking up a big stone to throw at our car. That seemed to be the chief way of harassing the Americans. But Addis took on a completely different complexion in those last months than heretofore, because all the streets and the squares of the town were lined with a number of motorcycle policemen and helmeted policemen. And it took on an air of revolution. One did not feel quite safe.

Q: Were all the families allowed to stay?



CALDWELL: Nobody was evacuated at that time. We left in '76 on a direct transfer to Turkey. A few months after we left, families were evacuated. But we were very fortunate that we were not evacuated, and no one was injured. We had some near calamities, but there were no tragedies, fortunately. It was an unfortunate time in Addis Ababa. It was also unpleasant in that it was not safe for friends whom we had made during our first years - two years - in Addis to visit us because the military government was very suspicious of Ethiopians who went to the houses of Westerners and to diplomats. And some of our friends were imprisoned. This year in Falls Church we had a visit from Elizabeth of Ethiopia. Had the monarchy come back, her husband would have been the ruler. She had been imprisoned. Her husband was imprisoned in the dungeon of the Gebby, as it's called, the old palace, where he was imprisoned for seven years. Then after he was out of prison, he was killed in a so called automobile accident. Some of these accidents were arranged. It was always felt that his was arranged. But several of our friends were imprisoned, and this was a very unhappy time. Before the revolution, we had had two years of uninterrupted pleasure in Ethiopia and in the other nine countries of East Africa.

One very interesting experience for our family was the arrival of a team of American anthropologists and a team of French anthropologists. The way we became involved was that the teams arrived without a permit to excavate - work in the field - although they thought it would be granted as soon as they came into the country. These anthropologists and geologists were investigating an area called the Hadar in Eastern Ethiopia. It was down in the lowlands, a very hot, arid, barren part of the country and it was in the Rift Valley. And in the Rift Valley there are few rivers now - they have dried up. But that's where fossils and fossils of early man had been found by the Leakeys, although the Leakeys' finds were in the Rift Valley in Kenya and in Tanzania. But it was a part of that same Rift Valley. So Don Johanson, leader of the American team and Maurice Taieb as head of the French team had come out to do some further exploration. Well, a British archaeologist, Richard Wilding, had been contacted by Don Johanson to see if he could help in getting the permit. Richard couldn't and he didn't have contacts with the government officials that he might have had. He was in Addis as a professor at the University. So he called Bob and asked if he would receive these American and French anthropologists. And, of course, Bob was delighted. And this started a two year friendship with these people while they were working in Ethiopia, and that friendship has continued to the present time. A representative of the Musee de l'Homme from Paris was with Maurice and then Don had a team of three people to go out for an exploratory session - season in the field - and then hopefully to come back for a longer season. Bob was able to help them and their permit was granted after some days. I might add that these young scholars had no money. Later when they came their finds which were really quite extraordinary - they had financing from National Geographic and from the National Science Foundation and they had enough money to carry on their work. This time, they were really living on a shoestring. So our house became their headquarters when they were not in the field. Well, that was quite all right with us. They were fascinating people and we enjoyed them. Yes, we had a kind of dormitory when they were not in the field.



The first excitement, and I remember it well, was after they got their permit and took their Land Rovers and went down in the Hadar. Within about ten days they returned. We saw these Land Rovers coming into our driveway. When they went down to the field we had given them some food and then one person had indicated that he was going to miss having cigars. Well Bob didn't smoke cigars but he happened to have a box in the house so he gave them to him. When they came back from the field, here came this cigar box with cotton in it and put out on our coffee table, and there were what later proved to be 3.5 million year old hominid fossils. And it was a very exciting day. So for two years while they were in the field - of course they were only in Ethiopia for a period of several months each year, and then they went back to their respective universities. Don now has established the Institute of Human Origins in Berkeley. We are in touch with him and whenever he is in Washington, he stays with us and so we continue this, not only professional relationship, but the friendship.

Peggy had an interesting experience in being in the field with them for two weeks to help close their expedition. This was at the time that there was guerilla fighting very close to this area of the Hadar. The Embassy felt it was not safe for our American and for the French anthropologist and geologist to remain there. For some time we had been supplying them with food with a small airplane. Now it was time to bring them out of the field and get their Land Rovers out because it was not safe. So in order to close the work of the season as quickly as possible, Don asked if Peggy could help them with cataloging and getting the whole expedition closed up, not knowing when they would be able to return. She did. And she now is a forensic anthropologist, and perhaps that experience might have had some influence on how she decided on her career.

Q: Was she still in school there?

CALDWELL: At first she was in the high school in Addis, and then, the next year, she had come back from Cornell, and was on holiday.

The finds have become famous. There is a book called "Lucy" [Lucy The Beginnings of Humankind by Donald Johanson and Maitland Edey, published by Simon & Schuster, N.Y., 1981.] , and this tells about a forty percent complete skeleton of a 3.5 million year old hominid (more than 60 separate pieces of bone). She was about three feet five inches and she still is the oldest, most complete, best-preserved skeleton of a hominid of that period. Don inscribed the copy of "Lucy" which he sent us, "to Bob and Marth without your generous assistance, "Lucy" might not have been found."

Q: Thrilling to have been a part of all that.



CALDWELL: It's very thrilling to have been a part of this exciting discovery and to continue to be in touch with Don and Maurice. In January 1976, Bob received a call from the Department of State asking if he would go on direct transfer as Labor Attaché<sup>1/2</sup> to Ankara, Turkey. Bob accepted this assignment with great pleasure and knew it would be a very interesting post, as it did turn out to be. So, in February of '76, we arrived in Ankara for a posting of nearly three years. Actually Bob retired from the Foreign Service in 1979. Retired from Ankara a bit before he had to retire, but he had always said he didn't want to stay to the last minute, so he retired about six months before he had to retire. We retired at post in Ankara, so that was 1979. Our three years in Ankara were, for me, very interesting in that I did get to know quite a number of outstanding Turkish people. Again, some have remained friends and have visited us here in Washington and we telephone each other from time to time, and we also made friends in the archaeological community. Dr. Akurgal, one of the most famous classicists in Turkey, and Dr. Alp, a Hittite scholar, were two of our good friends along with their wives. We, of course, went to Troy. One of our first outings was to see Troy. I remember so well being at a meeting at the American Officers Club of American wives in Ankara and mentioning that we were going to Troy. And a wife of a businessman I had just met said, "Oh don't go to Troy, There is nothing to see." And I could hardly contain myself because, knowing Dr. Blegen who after Schlieman and Dorpfeld had gotten all the levels straightened out at Troy, I wanted to see Troy, and just to see the Plain of Troy, of course, where the Trojan Horse was dragged up from the sea, but just to be there to me would have been exciting. I told her I thought we'd enjoy it. We didn't expect to see any monumental sculpture or buildings, but the walls of Troy, and we were excited about it. We were not disappointed.

When opportunities presented themselves, for instance, a long weekend, or if we had local leave, we did take advantage of seeing many other historical and archaeological sites in Turkey. Of course, Asia Minor with early Greek, Roman, Byzantine, monuments - fascinating places. We did a trip around the southern shore going to, well first, the Aegean, going to Ephesus and Miletus and Pirene and then in the Mediterranean to the ancient Greek and Roman sites. This was really a great pleasure. Also, partly because of our acquaintance with Dr. Alp we had many interesting excursions to the Hittite sites. Dr. Alp is a well known scholar who has been instrumental in, and is still working on deciphering some of the Hittite script. And so we also saw Hittite monuments. On the community service there - again I taught English. This time I was asked by USIS to be one of several teachers of English to wives of professional men. These professional men had learned English and used it rather well. The wives had not quite kept pace. They wanted to improve their English and they felt it was important to their husbands' professions that they know English. So a group of us from the Embassy and some USIS wives taught in groups of never more than twelve and usually about ten women. It was fascinating to teach English to this type of person. Also, another factor that I enjoyed was that we had the classes in the houses of each student. And that meant that I was able to get acquainted with professional mens' wives with whom I might not have had a contact through the Embassy. And to be in their homes and to see their way of life, I found from my standpoint that that was a great plus. They enjoyed learning English, so it worked both ways.



Before we left Ankara, Bob and I had a buffet supper for my "students" and their husbands, and did have a chance to get to know these people a bit. This was more of a superficial friendship. It is one that hasn't lasted, but it was extremely interesting while I was there.

For a while, I did have a hip problem (I won't go into that), but when I could I went on the bookmobile to village schools. Through the military mission in Ankara, we, Embassy wives, were provided a bus and a driver - small bus and driver - van, I guess I should say and driver. We went to village schools and distributed books. It was an absolutely enlightening experience for me to go into a village school in Turkey and see the poverty of the whole situation. I could not have imagined how important it was to take books to these young students. They had no library in the school. They practically had no textbooks. It was the poorest type of education I think I have ever seen. And I didn't expect that in Turkey.

Q: Were these young students? Were the books in English?

CALDWELL: The books that we took...we took both. We took Turkish books. I don't know about procurement of them. This was done by someone else. But the books were about half and half...about half were in Turkish and half were in English. I suppose the ones in English at first were used only to see the pictures, and for the teacher to explain what the pictures were. Most of them were picture books. I was appalled at the conditions in these village schools. These were remote villages and they were very poor villages. The children had very poor clothing. We did manage to get some clothes at times when we went to the schools. And the children had very, I consider, inadequate lunches, and had very little opportunity, it seemed to me, for real learning. And to distribute these books meant a great deal in improving what little education I felt they were getting. One experience I just want to mention...it was frightening and no one was hurt. But in Turkey, one never wants to be friendly with dogs, especially sheep dogs. Sheep are part of the livelihood of many of the villagers and the people in the countryside. The dogs that are used to herd the sheep are enormous dogs. These happened to be white, and they were as tall as what I would say...taller than German shepherds. That is what I might compare them to - wolf hounds...much bigger. And they had collars that had spikes about an inch long in their collars. Of course these collars, the purpose of these collars was to enable the dog to fight off the wolves who might threaten the flock of sheep. We started out the door of the school and between us and the van in which we were traveling was this big herd of sheep and about six of these enormous dogs with these spiked collars. We retreated into the school to wait until the shepherd got his flock and his dogs out of our way, and luckily we had enough sense not to walk into that flock of sheep. [laughter]

Q: It would be frightening just to see them.



CALDWELL: It was.

Q: We're continuing the interview. It is November 4 in Martha Caldwell's apartment. Did you want to continue from where we left off?

CALDWELL: Oh, yes. Excuse me, I didn't realize you wanted me to talk. I would like to round it off in that we, Bob, retired from post while we were in Ankara, retired from the Foreign Service. And we took a trip of two-and-a-half months in Europe on our way home from Ankara. The purpose of the trip was to see friends in many of, or some of the countries in which we had served. For instance, in Greece we saw many of our Greek friends, in England and Ireland we saw our English and Irish friends. We also, in Italy and other places, saw Foreign Service colleagues. Some were American, some were other nationality Foreign Service or diplomats of other countries. So that was, we felt, a very nice way to end our career in the Foreign Service and have a chance to see again old friends and colleagues. And then to come home and start our, I guess you would say, retirement life, though it hasn't been retired.

Q: But to be able to return, to go through those posts and see your personal friends from a personal viewpoint, you were no longer official at that point.

CALDWELL: No. This was just absolutely friends.

Q: Nice.

CALDWELL: And I think that is something that is significant. Many people would feel the same way, that when you're on post and you meet people in the other embassies and your own colleagues, it isn't just a friendship while you're together. After you leave, some or quite a few of these friendships are maintained and they're quite...you cherish those friendships. Not as official...no longer as official friendships, but they are friendships for life.

Q: Martha, to go back to the other end, the very beginning of your career in the Foreign Service - you were a young staff person during World War II. Tell me what your expectations were at that time of the Foreign Service as you entered.

CALDWELL: Career wise, I had no expectations. I was not interested in advancing to an officer level, nor was I so concerned with what kind of work I did, as long as I was doing something useful. I had come into the Service not to make it as a career, but really to help out in a wartime situation. I had intended to, after a few years in the Foreign Service, after the war was over, to return to the United States and go back into the educational field.



Q: Did you ever have a chance to do that?

CALDWELL: No. Not really.

Q: You were required to resign when you married. You married in Athens, you were overseas at the time. Did you have any regrets about your career at that time...that you were giving up, at that particular time?

CALDWELL: I had no regrets at all because I felt I could still be useful as a Foreign Service wife and although I could not continue to work, I was sent with Bob on temporary assignment to Salonika twice, to our Consulate General there to help out. And I felt I would always have some opportunities to be useful. And that is exactly why I came into the Service, so no I had no regrets whatsoever.

Q: How did you envision your role as a Foreign Service wife?

CALDWELL: I envisioned my role as a Foreign Service wife as, I guess the word I should use, a helpmate. I felt very lucky to be marrying someone in a career in which I could have a part. And I looked forward to having a part as a Foreign Service wife in whatever way I could be helpful and useful. And I knew that Bob and I would enjoy doing together whatever came. And that's the way it worked out.

Q: Did you feel you were two for the price of one? Had you ever heard that expression?

CALDWELL: Later I heard that expression many times, and I never even gave it a thought because I was doing what I wanted to do. And I had no idea of being paid...it never occurred to me...I didn't want to be paid. I wanted to be a part of the life that Bob was leading and feeling that I could be a useful part. It never occurred to me that there would come a time when this would be a problem.

Q: You accepted it.

CALDWELL: I accepted it as we all did in those days.



Q: You were in several Consulates abroad over the years. Tell me of the relationship official and personal between the Consulate post and the Embassy in the capital city.

CALDWELL: Actually, we were in only one Consulate General. We were in embassies except in Madras. And I can say that from my standpoint, the relationship with the mission and mission personnel was excellent. Bob and I were very happy that our colleague from New Delhi found reasons to come to south India and many were entertained at Bower, our residence, and we got to know them as friends, from Ambassador and Mrs. Bowles to other officers in the Embassy in New Delhi. We felt this was a privilege. So far as I know the relations were excellent.

Q: Did you get to Delhi once in a while? I remember one meeting.

CALDWELL: Yes.

Q: ...at least. Was it an annual?

CALDWELL: Bob, of course, came to Delhi perhaps several times a year. I was in Delhi only a few times, I guess only three or four times during our four and a half years in south India. I enjoyed it immensely because the officers in the Embassy treated us most cordially and these were pleasant experiences for us.

Q: During your Washington assignments, '60-'64 and again '68-'72, were you a member of the Association of American Foreign Service Women?

CALDWELL: Yes, I was a member of Association of American Foreign Service Women and in 1968, '69, '70, I was on the Board of AAFSW. During both assignments I was active in the affairs of the Association. Of course, I was more active, I suppose, as a member of the Board. I had two specific assignments. I was first asked as a member of the Board to be in charge of teenage activities. This was sort of what you made it. The principal part was a ball that was a tradition - it had been done for a number of years at Christmastime - which included the sons and daughters of foreign diplomats posted in Washington and the sons and daughters of American Foreign Service people on assignment in Washington. And I enjoyed...

Q: Did that include the World Bank and IMF?



CALDWELL: Right, right...those other agencies. And in including those agencies, we worked very closely with an organization called THIS, The Hospitality and Information Service in getting the names of the young people and working with them and arranging dinners before the ball and that sort of thing. We worked very closely, our two organizations. I was in charge of the ball in the John Quincy Adams Room in Christmas of 1969. I felt very fortunate that the wife of the Secretary of State came as a guest to the ball. Adele Rogers, who always insisted that those of us on the Board who had gotten to know her through small groups and luncheons and so on, call her Adele. It was a little hard to do that. She was a most delightful person and she gladly accepted the invitation to come to the Christmas Ball. And I was very impressed with our young people - both the American and the foreign diplomat children who seemed to show a great deal of interest in the fact that the wife of the Secretary of State cared enough about, well, shall we say, foreign affairs to come and represent her husband and represent the Department of State. And, of course, personally, I was very pleased. It added quite a nice note to the evening.

Q: I hope some of them had an opportunity to meet or talk with her.

CALDWELL: Oh, many of them did. The first ones to meet her were the ones who formed a little committee which I had set up. Having a teenage son, our son George, was at the ball that year. He was, I guess, at his senior year at Woodbury Forest Prep School. Wally was in Cornell, but was for some reason, not at that ball, as I recall. However, with George, I talked about having a little committee of the American young people to act as hosts to the children of the foreign diplomats. And without really emphasizing this, it was my hope that they would see because of their behavior, everyone would be nicely behaved. And I felt a little nervous at having the ball in those beautiful 18th century rooms. And there 's always been an unwritten rule, I guess you would say, that no food or drink would be taken into the John Quincy Adams Room which at that time, was the most gorgeous of the rooms, because not all had been completed at that time - the restoration of them. But the young people were absolutely marvelous. I need not have worried about it. There was no problem whatsoever. I do think having this group of American young people probably was a good idea. And they enjoyed it. Now they were the first to meet Mrs. Rogers, but she mingled with everybody and stayed for quite a little while and really talked with as many as she could. She had great rapport with the young people. And she seemed to enjoy it and I know the young people enjoyed it.

Q: I'm sure they all did. How did the 1972 directive on the status of Foreign Service wives, women affect your status role as a wife of a senior Foreign Service officer? And therefore, in a more demanding representational position in the former traditional sense.?



CALDWELL: The '72 directive affected me not at all. I continued to do as I always had done to entertain. Our life, of course, we had our family life. Our two boys were back in the States in school. Peggy was with us the first time this happened in Madras. She was at boarding school part of the time of necessity. Our life was very busy in all kinds of representational activities. I look back and recall that it was not unusual to have four or five activities, more or less official, every day, and to have people in our house for dinner several times a week, or to be out almost all the other nights of the week. This was all a part of, what I felt, was the life of a Foreign Service wife, and I loved it.

Q: You took it as a responsibility.

CALDWELL: I did. And it was a happy responsibility. I was so pleased to have the opportunity to get to know people in the country and to work in a representational way as a Foreign Service wife.

Q: Well, did you find after that directive, and you were abroad, that other wives did not feel the way you did?

CALDWELL: I did, to a certain extent. In Madras, Addis Ababa, and Ankara, I did find a difference. Well, in Madras it was just beginning to happen, because that was just before the directive came out. In Addis and Ankara I did find that some of the young wives of junior officers coming to the post had a little reticence about being asked to do anything in a representational way. Several of them had careers that they wanted to pursue. It was difficult as I'm sure many have related. Foreign governments did not always give permission for these young women to pursue the type of career for which they had been trained. But they just had their own interests. And I know from the Ambassador's wife down, all of us who were senior wives, were reluctant to ask these young wives to take part in representational entertaining. I think those of us who were in the senior category continued to do even a greater share rather than ask some of the young wives who felt they were being "put upon". And therefore we didn't ask them. They were reluctant, so we thought to let them live their life as they wanted as long as the rest of us could carry on and their husbands do their job.

Q: You understood their point of view.

CALDWELL: I understood their point of view absolutely. I didn't share it. I felt they were missing a great deal, and I thought they were limiting their lives and their activities in what could have been a very happy and, well, been a larger kind of life had they participated. I felt they were really missing something. But I understood that was not their point of view, and therefore I respected it.



Q: Martha, before the directive...two years before in 1970...weren't you involved in a committee...an ad hoc committee of the AAFSW?

CALDWELL: Yes, I was. I attended one specific meeting...I was involved in this a little more than that...but I attended one specific meeting I'd like to mention. That was the ad hoc women's committee meeting in October of 1970. All these things that were happening were precursors, or they came, they were leading up to what then became the 1972 directive. There was a group of women officers in the Foreign Service agency who felt that the task force reports of July of '70 had virtually ignored women in drawing up a management strategy for the 70's. And because of that they had a department-wide or agency-wide meeting to discuss what they could do. This ad hoc committee did have a meeting with the then Under Secretary of State, William B. Macomber, who was Under Secretary of State for Management. He asked this committee to present its recommendations for inclusions in the reports of the task forces. So they did make recommendations, which included the abolition of any discriminations against women in recruitment, promotion, training, career assignments and to bring an end, recommending an end to any discriminatory practice against married women or those who marry while in the Service. Following this the women officers had another meeting in which I was asked to sit in as a representative of AAFSW which was to discuss the implementation of their recommendations in subsequent reports. The representative for the American Foreign Service Association was Bill Harrop. At this meeting on October 22, 1970 in one of the small conference rooms of the Department of State were representatives of the Department of State, AID, USIA, the American Federation of Government Employees, the American Foreign Service Association, and then I was representing the American Association of Foreign Service Women. The ad hoc committee's chief spokesperson was Mary Olmsted. My report on this meeting will be a part of the files.

Q: Thank you.

CALDWELL: I was very glad to have been asked by AAFSW to sit in on this meeting and I did follow as best I could what happened after this all started, what I would say, the ball rolling...before the '72 directive. I could not be involved longer because we were assigned abroad. We went to the Embassy in Addis Ababa. But I felt that the meeting I had attended and the background I had, led up to what became the '72 directive. I was very glad to have been in on a small part of it.

Q: Have any of your three children expressed an interest in either the Foreign Service or any other kind of international service?



CALDWELL: Our second child took the Foreign Service exams and, I'm happy to say, passed them with very high marks...was put into the political cone...came to Washington to the Foreign Service Institute and studied Farsi and went to the embassy in Teheran. After he was there about a year, he began to write letters expressing some dissatisfaction with the Service and his involvement in it. At that time, we were in the Embassy in Ankara.

Q: Excuse me, what year was this?

CALDWELL: This would have been '76-'77. And I suppose it was '77, I don't have the exact date. but George came to Ankara to talk to us about life in the Foreign Service. He expressed, which pleased us, that he had enjoyed his life as a Foreign Service child, but after being in the Service for about a year, as I recall, he had decided that this was not the career for him. And he felt very distressed about this, feeling that we might be unhappy about it. Bob and I were not at all unhappy. We said "It's your decision". We had never encouraged the children to go into any specific profession, we left it entirely up to them. And so we said, "If you're going to choose another career you're absolutely right to do it now while you're young and can still do what you want to". And so we were not unhappy about it. George said, "I always want to travel and be involved in certain aspects of foreign relations, foreign affairs, but I want to be based at home. I want to have a career in political science at home." And that's what he's doing and we are very pleased.

As for the other children, our eldest expressed no interest whatsoever in living abroad. He, too, likes to travel, but his interests lay actually in theology. So he is happily settled in a profession (Episcopal priest) here in the United States and that's exactly what he wants. Peggy is a forensic anthropologist. And she was so happy in her life abroad. India, of course, was the last post where she spent the entire time with us, because from our next post, Addis Ababa, she came back to Cornell to the university. She feels a great rapport with Indian people. As a matter of fact, this summer she spent...no, in the spring, from April to July, she spent three months in India and it was the greatest satisfaction and pleasure to her to be back among Indian professional people and all of the Indian people with whom she was working this summer. She went back as an anthropologist. It was very interesting that in Mysore (she had gone with her professor of anthropology at Cornell and his wife and a graduate student), there were the four of them on this trip. And they went over to meet the Director of Archaeology in Mysore. And when Peggy walked in, the Director of Archaeology, Dr. Rao, said to Peggy. "Are you by any chance the daughter of Bob and Martha Caldwell?" Dr. Rao remembered Bob and me from our stay in south India and Peggy was delighted. She found that working with the anthropologists and the forensic people in India was a great thrill, because she loves India, she loves Indian people, she loves Indian food. She just found that she still had great rapport with them and enjoyed it tremendously. I think she does not particularly aspire to a life in the Foreign Service. She is right now back at Rutgers University doing her Ph.D. and intends to continue her career as a forensic anthropologist.



Q: It's a nice story. What do you sense now is the morale in the Foreign Service? Do you have an opportunity to hear young persons talking about or do you have much contact...

CALDWELL: We have quite a bit of contact. And unhappily, I find that morale is low. We have contacts with several young Foreign Service officers, one of whom sought Bob's advice about going in the Foreign Service, and as Bob always does, he gives the pros and cons and leaves it up to the young person to make the decision. But there are problems in the Service now. It is of much concern to both Bob and me as I know it is to many others of our generation of Foreign Service officers and their wives.

Q: Isn't Bob active in DACOR (Diplomatic and Consular Officers Retired) and has something to do with bringing the new generation with the older generation of retired...?

CALDWELL: Oh, very much so. Bob is on the Board of Governors of DACOR...has been now, this is his second term, I think, of three years each. Yes. DACOR is very interested in having some impact, some influence, perhaps, in trying to raise, trying to I should say improve the conditions that would raise morale among the young people. And DACOR right now is in the midst of discussing ways in which it can play an active part in trying to create this esprit de corps which we always felt and which we feel is so necessary in a career of service like our American Foreign Service.

Q: Is that a continuing program...with the retired officers?

CALDWELL: It is a continuing program...right...and more emphasis now is being placed on it than at any previous time that Bob has been on the Board, Bob has been a member of DACOR from the very earliest times that an active duty officer could become an associate member, which was about twenty-six years ago.

Q: Really.

CALDWELL: But now, there is a distinct focus on trying to do something in connection with young Foreign Service officers and being helpful in any way that DACOR can. It's an ongoing program and it's getting a great deal of attention now.

Q: Glad to hear that. Martha, you were always very actively involved at your posts abroad in community work of many kinds. What keeps you busy now that your husband is retired?



CALDWELL: Again, I find that it's a privilege to be able to do some things in which both Bob and I are interested.

(End of Tape 2, Side B)Tape III, Side A

CALDWELL: ..an opportunity to work along with Bob on some of the activities in which DACOR is interested. I too, of course, am a member of DACOR, although I have no official capacity. What I do most is work in connection with an organization (it's a philanthropic and educational organization)...I am not shy in saying that I'm a 50 year member, so this tells my age, but you know it from being a retired Foreign Service officer's wife...

Q: ...to be proud of.

CALDWELL: But this organization...We own a college and give international scholarships for graduate work in the United States. This has a stipulation. We give these grants of several thousands of dollars to foreign students and the stipulation is that these students will return to their own countries and use in their own countries the skills and the knowledge that they get from their graduate work here in the United States. We feel that's very important. We have an educational loan fund with a very low interest rate - I think it's 4% which sounds like nothing now - for undergraduates. Thus far, I would say, that these are for young women. We do not have young men in this program yet. But we do have this loan program for undergraduates, and then our newest program...

Q: Could you tell me the name of this or would you prefer not to?

CALDWELL: Oh, yes. We use the initials PEO. It's a philanthropic and educational organization. Actually the letters do not mean that and I should put this on record. PEO was started as a sorority and then it went off campus deciding that it would be a more continuing type of program for its members in later life than just sororities. So it started as a sorority but used English letters instead of Greek letters. So I say that, but that's not what the letters mean, but that's what it is. Our latest program which I think is a fine program, is called Continuing Education. We give grants of money...these are not loans...well, our scholarships are not loans, those are outright grants, too. Women who for some reason have left the work force, probably because of marriage and who find themselves in a position now that they must reenter the workforce, perhaps through divorce or the death of a spouse or for some economic reasons, and need to upgrade their skills, can apply for these grants. We give grants to these women to pursue their education further to make it possible for them to be earning workers in our present day situation.



Q: And being here in Washington, you...I do see you occasionally at AAFSW...

CALDWELL: Oh, I continue my association with AAFSW and I go to the meetings as often as I can. I'm very interested in the progress that AAFSW has made and the growth of its interests. I'm also extremely interested in the organization because I find now that the young women who are the present president, and the immediate past president, are former colleagues, young wives of young officers who served with us in Ethiopia or Turkey. And I want to do anything I can to promote their work. I think it's splendid that they are taking over these positions of responsibility. So I do see them and, of course, give any encouragement I can. I'm not as active as I have been. I also do other volunteer work. Right now I'm not doing any volunteer work for the blind. That's on my list. I do work for volunteer agencies...the shelters and the food for the homeless, too.

Q: A very long and contributing life.

CALDWELL: It's been extremely interesting. As I think I said once before on the tape, I wouldn't change a thing [laughter].

Q: Is there anything you'd like to add? I was thinking of the benefit tea that we had for this project at DACOR Bacon House when you and Doris Metcalf who had gone into the Service during World War II in the Foreign Service Auxiliary, and there was June Byrne, our first president, at the other end of the room and she herself had gone in at the same time...gone abroad as a Foreign Service secretary, I believe. In the living room, Ann Kauzlarich was sitting down alone, our newest president, and I thought, she and the first president might like to meet. And then you came over and joined the little group there.

CALDWELL: This was a great pleasure for me because without your doing this, I might not have realized that the present president, Ann Kauzlarich and her husband Sean, and Bob and I had served together. Ann reminded me (I, of course, then recognized her). Ann reminded me that she and her husband arrived in Addis shortly before Bob and I left. So I didn't get to know them very well, but I knew her as a bright, young wife and I certainly will follow her career as president of AAFSW...follow it with great interest. The immediate past president, Susan Donnelly, also I feel a great interest in what she has done and what she is doing for AAFSW. She and her husband were in the Embassy in Addis and I knew that Susan, I felt very sure that Susan, would continue her interest in Foreign Service life and women. She was extremely active in Addis Ababa in all the activities in which the wives could participate. So during her term as president I did have a chance...we did have a chance to continue...to renew and continue our friendship.



Q: The thing that strikes me so satisfying about this is that the generation that is now out and retired has a continuing interest and loyalty and support for the newest ones.

CALDWELL: I hope this will always be true. I think it's very important. It does establish that link and that continuity that I think...I share with you...is very important. In closing, I do want to mention that when Bob and I were at the Consulate General in Madras, Mary Lou and her husband were at the Embassy in Delhi, and when I mentioned that our relationships, so far as I knew, between the Consulate General and the Embassy were all pleasant, I was thinking very much of Mary Lou and Leonard who did come to Madras and we saw them in Delhi. It's a great pleasure for me to continue this friendship with Mary Lou through our activities in AAFSW and in this Oral History Project.

Q: Thank you, Martha.

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Q: This is the 6th of February 1989. I am with Martha Caldwell again for a continuation-addition on the tape. Martha, you told me that church activities played a great role in your life and continued to do so while you were in the Foreign Service. I wonder if you would tell us a little about that. Each post was different in relation to your church and Bob's?

CALDWELL: Absolutely, and I would be delighted to tell you about it. As I look back, I realize that continuing church activities abroad, at first in my Foreign Service career, was not altogether easy because I was living in an Islamic environment. However, both Bob and I were interested in some kind of church service. Due to his knowing quite a few professors at American University, Cairo, he more or less ferreted out this church group which was organized by, and attended largely by, professors and staff of American University, Cairo. Both of us had grown up in church-oriented families. My father was a deacon in the Baptist church; my mother was the daughter of a Baptist minister. Bob's father was an elder in the Presbyterian Church. You may wonder later when I talk about the Episcopal and Anglican Church. Yes, we did become affiliated with the Anglican and later the Episcopal Church because in most countries where we served the British had built an Anglican church, and that was sometimes the only church available. The Anglican-Episcopal service is one we both love, and we really wanted to be active participants.



But to go back, the church service in Cairo was held in an upstairs room of a building which was in the middle of Cairo, and the services were in the evening. I remember after church we often walked over to the old Shepherd's Hotel and had supper in the garden of that famous old hotel which was quite a gathering place for international groups. It was a rather exotic old hotel for those who remember it. With its Moorish decor, it was quite intriguing to me.

Q: Was the building where the service was held in an office building, or an embassy?

CALDWELL: It was not in an embassy. As I recall, it was an office building. I know that we went upstairs in what I think was an ordinary office building. I'm a little vague on it, but I know it was not a church-related nor an American University-related building. Bob knew the American University quite well. He had an introduction to Dean Badeau (John S.), whom you may remember. He later became our American ambassador to Egypt. At that time he was on the staff of American University as was Dr. Smith, the Acting President. They were friends of Bob's, and Bob did a little volunteer work for the university since they were short of staff. That's how we found out about the church service which was really our only church life in Cairo. We did go out to visit two old Coptic sites.

Q: Was this on your own, or part of a church activity?

CALDWELL: No, it was on our own. At that time both of us were seeing the old city of Cairo with its ancient walls, and many mosques. We also were going to out-of-the-way places which maybe not everybody visited - such as the Coptic sites.

I was in Cairo only six months so it wasn't a long period of time. Going from Cairo into Athens, we found the atmosphere totally different. There our church life centered around St. Paul's Anglican Church, in which we were married. Also, in a church-related way I found it quite exciting to stand on the Aeropagus where St. Paul (The Apostle of Christ) had given his speech on the unknown God. Climbing up the Aeropagus, which as you know is the "Hill of Ares" (the war god), situated at the foot of the Acropolis overlooking the Agora, always was an interesting experience.

Also, we were in Corinth many times. In Corinth in the Agora there still exists the old Bema with its big blocks of stone, which was a lecture platform. It was a platform from which the Greek elders of the city made pronouncements and from which St. Paul preached.



Getting to know some of the Greek Orthodox church people was most interesting. Two of these had the same name. I remember Archbishop Athenagoras who was Archbishop of North and South America, and the other was Bishop Athenagoras of Boston. The third distinguished member of the clergy was Pantaliamon, Bishop of Edessa and Pelle and ex-Arch of the Dodecanese. We got to know all three quite well. I remember that Archbishop Athenagoras in New York asked Bob and me to call on him when we were coming on home leave. We did call on him at the St. Moritz, a Greek-owned hotel on the park (Central Park). When Bishop Athenagoras from Boston knew we were in New York, he called Bob and then he came to see us. The last time he had been in Athens, he knew that there seemed to be a problem about the birth of our first child, so he came to New York to see us and to see Wally.

Bishop Pantaliamon we saw occasionally in the house of our Greek friends, the Carolous. It happened that when Bob and I had gone to Rhodes on a Greek war relief ship to deliver supplies, Bishop Pantaliamon was in Rhodes. Our first night at dinner in the hotel the waiter brought us two beautiful partridges, sent to our table by Bishop Pantaliamon. At that time special food in the Dodecanese was not readily available - the food was rather uninteresting and certainly not gourmet - the partridges were a great treat. Bishop Pantaliamon had heard from our Greek friends, the Carolous, that we were in Rhodes. The next day he was leaving for Kos and Patmos and invited Bob to go with him, and we thought how interesting that would be. I was not included, but never mind. Unfortunately, the authorities would not let them go because there had been a storm at sea and some of the mines that had been put down by German submarines in World War II could have broken their moorings. It might not have been safe. Of course Bob was disappointed.

From Athens we went to Ireland. There, just a block and a half away from where we lived when we first were in Dublin, was the Church of St. Bartholomew, Church of Ireland. That was the equivalent of the Anglican Church - it's all in the Anglican communion. We went a time or two, but we found the services very grim indeed. It was a beautiful church, but it was dark and cold inside. Usually there were only about six people at the services; sometimes there was no music, sometimes very little music. We decided that was not for us at all. So during our stay in Dublin we attended the Presbyterian Church in Rathgar and enjoyed that very much and took Wally to Sunday School there.



The other thing about church connections in Dublin that rather intrigued me was that the Kielys, close Irish friends, had a very long relationship with Father O'Connor, who was the O'Connor Don of the O'Connors of Connaught. My mother's mother was an O'Connor. However, when that family came to the States it became Protestant. They dropped the "O" and they were Connors. I grew up seeing a book in the house, The O'Connors of Connaught. Father O'Connor was a Jesuit. He and Paddy Kiely had been in university together where their friendship began. We often were included at lunch on Sundays or other occasions. Father O'Connor invited us to Clon Alice which is the present seat of the O'Connor Don. Father O'Connor was writing an updated history of the family. He showed me the manuscript which I was fascinated to see. The last I knew, his book had not been published. We had many fascinating conversations about family, and I was interested in seeing Clon Alice, the family seat.

From Dublin we went to Copenhagen, where we attended St. Alban's Anglican Church. Those who know Copenhagen will have seen St. Alban's because the church is just a step away from the Gefion Fountain. Bob was on the church council and I was on the church council part of the time representing Ambassador Robert Coe. British churches overseas had a chaplain. They were churches to the British Embassy, and instead of a rector or a vicar, the person in charge was called Chaplain. The chaplain was chaplain to the British Ambassador. Because quite a few Americans went to the church, the American ambassador was invited to be on the church council. Ambassador Coe found that he couldn't go to the church council meetings very often so he asked me to sit in for him. I was interested to know the workings of the church and I was interested in the people.

Princess Viggo was on the church council. It happened that she and her husband, Prince Viggo, and Bob and I became good friends. She was the daughter of Hetty Greene. That may not mean much to many people, but Hetty Greene was a rather well-known person in Brooklyn, a large landowner who distrusted banks. It was always said that her money was kept under the mattress, which Princess Viggo said was true. But what interested us more than that was that her doctor had been Dr. Frank Eddy Caldwell, Bob's grandfather.

St. Alban's is a lovely church. It is quite small. It had no place for a Sunday School except the vestry which would hold about ten children. We had a large number of American children who wanted a Sunday School. So Bob and I together with Henry and Hood Barringer started an American Sunday School. It was held in the educational building attached to the Danish Army Church. It looked like a school room. I remember the children at Sunday School sitting at desks.

Q: How big a group was it?

CALDWELL: We had over fifty, sometimes over sixty. We averaged from forty to sixty children. We operated the Sunday School with the help of the American Army chaplain in Wiesbaden, who came once or twice a month. We got our Sunday School materials from him.



Through my uncle, Jesse Horton, my mother's brother, who was Executive Secretary of the Northern Baptist Convention, we met Dr. and Mrs. Johannes Norgaard. My uncle Jesse Horton, through the World Council of Churches, had known Dr. Norgaard who lived in Tollose, a small town about ten miles outside of Copenhagen. And the Norgaards became good friends during our five-and-a-half years in Denmark. One of their sons was in seminary. When he was in Copenhagen he often helped out at the Sunday School which was fine because he was trained. That was quite an experience for us, and it meant that while our children went to Danish schools, the Sunday School provided an opportunity for them to have more American children as friends.

Q: Were the children in the SundaSchool mostly English-speaking, or were they British, American, diplomatic...?

CALDWELL: They were all English-speaking. As I recall, they were all American children. The children's parents were connected either with embassy or with American businesses in Copenhagen. I remember an American who was representing TWA, for example. The Sunday School proved to be quite a happy experience for all of us who were involved in it.

Q: Were any of the children of confirmation age, or were there any baptisms there?

CALDWELL: There were no baptisms and there were no confirmations. That would have been difficult because we had a little makeshift altar set up. Having only an occasional visit from the chaplain, there were no confirmation classes. This was strictly Sunday School.

In connection with our involvement at St. Alban's, Bob, who was on the church council, was asked to prepare the service, (I don't mean the talk that was given), but to outline the service for Ruth Bryan Owen Rohde, who some may remember as being Ambassador to Denmark (1933-36). By the time she died she was living in Denmark, and there was a memorial service at St. Albans. Bob was asked to make all the arrangements for it.



From Copenhagen we went to another Islamic environment in Karachi. But Karachi, of course, was a city that had had many British connections, and there was an Anglican church which we attended. One thing that I remember specifically about that church was the bishop. We became good friends, and for some reason he and Bob talked together about many scholarly things. One evening at dinner he said that he had been involved in helping a group translate the Bible into the Tibetan language. He told us at length the story of getting the Bibles by mule caravans into Tibet. He gave Bob at least two copies of this Tibetan Bible which Bob (brought) when he came home. Bob gave a copy to Wheaton College in Illinois, which was Billy Graham's college, and where my cousin, my Uncle Jesse Horton's daughter's husband, was assistant to the president. So one of the Tibetan Bibles, as far as I know, still resides in Wheaton College in Illinois.

From Karachi we came home and our church life centered around the Episcopal Church in Chevy Chase (Md.). We were active and the children were in Sunday School.

Q: They were able to continue their Sunday School life.

CALDWELL: Right. Then we went to Madras. In Madras we were extremely active in the church. Again there was an Anglican church although to be exactly correct the churches had amalgamated and these Protestant churches were called the Church of South India. The church that we attended is historic indeed. It is St. Mary's in the Fort (Fort St. George) and the oldest (built 1678-80, the first English church in India) Anglican church still in use east of Suez. I think I mentioned that when Peggy our daughter was in India this summer, she went back to St. Mary's and it's still very much in use.

Q: This was in Fort St. George?

CALDWELL: Yes, Fort St. George in Madras. Fort St. George was built on the land the British had bought from the Vijayanagar kingdom, and that was the first settlement of Madras (founded in 1644). Bob was on the church council of St. Mary's church all the time we were there. I was very active also. In our house or our garden seemed to be all the receptions for incoming and outgoing chaplains. We were quite involved. There was a Sunday School there for the children. It was small but our children attended. We were very lucky in that we had excellent chaplains. It was difficult to have chaplains in that part of the world when there was little money to pay them, but these chaplains were provided partly by the mission to seamen. In addition to being chaplains of the church, they also administered to seamen who came in on the ships. They were fine people. Wally Andrews, I remember, was Welsh; the next chaplain Seldon Hadlow, was from New Zealand and we still keep in touch with him and his family.



Q: Again, was this congregation a collection or a group of foreigners?

CALDWELL: This congregation was made up principally of British, Americans, and many Indians. So that made it fascinating because we had lovely friends among the Indian community who attended that church.

Q: Isn't the Christian community in South India especially high due to the background of missionaries?

CALDWELL: Very high, and Kerala has the largest Christian population in India (one quarter of the population in 1962). We have said this sometimes and people don't understand it, but Kerala has the largest number of Christians and is the only, or it was at that time, Communist state in India. It has the highest percentage of educated people.

Q: A very high literacy rate.

CALDWELL: It's true in Kerala that some of the tram conductors held degrees from universities. They were highly educated people. There was another interesting group in Kerala that I'll just mention and those were the Jews, the White Jews, the ones who had come from the Diaspora. You'll know more about that probably than I do. It was a very small, a very select group. We were invited by the head of that group, his name was S.S. Koder, I believe - it's been a long time since I've thought of this - to visit the synagogue in Cochin. It was beautiful.

Q: It (was) still a community when we were there (but down to only twenty or so members).

CALDWELL: Very small, and they would not marry outside their own group, so it was dwindling. I was told when we were there that there were about 90 in the group, and I'm told it's now dwindled to about 20 people. Peggy inquired about it when she was there because she remembered Mr. Koder and the visit to the synagogue.

Q: We visited that tiny little community and learned the background of the synagogue. (Those called White Jews were expelled from Portugal in the 16th century. Some who came earlier, called Black Jews, are claimed to have fled from Jerusalem in the 3rd and 4th centuries.)

CALDWELL: Do you remember the church, the synagogue? It was a lovely little building. I remember particularly the tiles. They showed us, of course, the whole synagogue, but I remember especially the very beautiful Chinese tiles that had been brought by sea. Trade between China and Kerala flourished from early times.



Another point of interest was St. Thomas because the legend is, (but it seems to be more than a legend - there are many books that substantiate this), that St. Thomas (the apostle of Jesus Christ) did missionary work in India. He, it is said, landed at Mylapore in Kerala, so of course we visited Mylapore. We also knew well St. Thomas Mount which was between the city of Madras and the airport. Anybody who went from Madras to the airport would see the small mound. It is called Mount San Thom̃ġ½ or St. Thomas. (There) is also a church in Mylapore, a suburb of Madras, which was called San Thom̃ġ½. The story is - and I don't know if there is authentication for this - but the story is that St. Thomas' bones when he died, were buried in that church, and later were moved. Legend has it that he died on St. Thomas Mount. He supposedly was shot with an arrow when he was just below the Mount and made his way to the top of the mount. There is now a small church built over the site where he is supposed to have died. There is a rock, a stone, on which are stains which are believed to be the stains of blood where St. Thomas fell.

I was asked to do a rubbing from a stone on the porch of that church which rather intrigued me. That stone had an inscription in Armenian and a heart with an arrow through it representing the bleeding heart of St. Thomas.

Q: I believe when we visited you in Madras you might have been the one who took us to see this church. I remember looking at the cemetery, the gravestones by the little church.

CALDWELL: Yes, indeed. It's a little church that is held in high esteem. It was originally Armenian. It now is under the direction of the Roman Catholic Church. (End of tape III)

For our second posting in Washington we took a house in Kensington (Maryland). We had bought a house in American University Park (Washington, DC) on our first posting, but at the time we came back from Madras in 1968 we did not want to send Peggy to the schools in American University Park, which would have been Alice Deal Junior High and Woodrow Wilson High School. There were a great many problems in the schools at that time. We investigated school systems and were told that among the best would be Kensington. Peggy had one year in elementary school and then went into Newport Junior High. She got a good education and we were quite pleased.



We were affiliated with Christ Church, Kensington, and both Bob and I were active in the church. I was on the altar guild for a short time before we went to Addis Ababa. Nothing very special except that Peggy was confirmed while we were in Kensington and we were attending Christ Church. The rector and his wife became good friends of ours. While we were in Ethiopia, Bob's brother and his wife had moved from Baltimore to Kensington and they attended Christ Church. They reported to us regularly that a prayer was said for us on Sunday mornings during the revolutionary days in Addis Ababa, praying for our safety, and we thought that was rather splendid.

Q: Wonderful to know.

CALDWELL: In 1972 we were posted to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Coptic Church in Ethiopia is a very old Christian church. Christianity goes back to the third century A.D. In Addis Ababa there also was an Anglican church, St. Matthew's. We arrived in Ethiopia in August. The schools were not in session and in the first week we were there I began to think about friends for Peggy without her waiting until school started. This was going to be difficult. I looked in the phone book under British or Anglican church, found the church number and called Philip Cousins to inquire about the church and its activities. Philip said, "How did you find us"? I said it wasn't very difficult; I just used the phone book! Peggy made friends among the church young people. Philip and Janet Cousins became close friends and still are. Philip now is the dean of the Cathedral in Cairo. He and Janet visited us last summer.

Soon after we arrived in Addis, Philip asked Bob to be chaplain's warden, and we became quite involved in church activities. The Anglican church, I may have mentioned, does not have an altar guild per se. The wife of the chaplain is called on to do all the necessary things. That's a big job, and (since) Janet was teaching at the English school, a few of us wives did a great deal to help out on what would have been an altar guild. We were very close to that church and we loved it. We had twenty-two nationalities attending. It was extremely colorful! We have a number of photographs of the garden in which after church we had tea and coffee. The women from East and West Africa and from Asia wore their native clothes, and it was so colorful that when we went to our next post, people looked so drab - all wore Western clothes. We were not only active in the church but also in helping with visitors to the church. The rectory was extremely small and the Cousins had two lovely young children, Paul and Rachel. It was difficult for them to do a great deal of entertaining so we helped.



One occasion that I would like to mention particularly was a dinner party we had for Bishop Spofford. His title was Vicar General of Jerusalem, and he was in Addis for a very short time. One evening he and the Cousins and a few other church people came to dinner at our house. Philip mentioned to Peggy just before dinner that Bishop Spofford was president of the D'Oyly Carte Society in London. This being the 100th anniversary of D'Oyly Carte made it a very special year. Peggy went over to the stereo and put on "The Mikado", and Bishop Spofford was just so pleased. He then told us that he had arranged for this 100th anniversary to have every Gilbert and Sullivan production performed in a two-week period, at the Savoy (the Savoy Theatre, London, built by Richard D'Oyly Carte in 1881 to house Gilbert and Sullivan operas). He arranged one performance before dinner, and then dinner at the Savoy Hotel, and then a performance after dinner. And in doing that for two weeks they were able to perform every production of Gilbert and Sullivan. We found this fascinating because we like Gilbert and Sullivan and still have many recordings. Peggy sang with the Savoyards at Cornell. She is a great devotee of Gilbert and Sullivan.

Another thing about Bishop Spofford was brought to light when he saw a tile on the table which had a sketch of a church in Fulton, Missouri. It is a church that was erected, or I should say re-erected in Fulton, Missouri as a memorial to Winston Churchill who gave his famous Iron Curtain speech at Westminster College there. (The president of the college at that time was Franc "Bullet" McCluer, an old friend of ours. I had worked with him a bit on the Missouri Constitutional Convention at one time ) This tile pictures a church which had been bombed in England but not totally destroyed. The stones were there and they were carefully numbered, brought to and re-erected in Fulton. It is a beautiful church, a beautiful memorial. Bishop Spofford told us that he was chairman of the committee which received the people from Fulton when they came to England to try to select a fitting memorial for Churchill. He suggested this church [The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Alder-Manbury, a 12th Century London church redesigned in 1677 by Sir Christopher Wren.] and the committee thought it a fine idea, and that's how the church came to be in Fulton. He was an extremely interesting man, and with our church and Gilbert and Sullivan connection, you can imagine we had a happy evening.



Another church-related activity in Addis Ababa was our church group's trip to the Rock-Cut Churches of Lalibela. King Lalibela in the 13th century was extremely upset that there could be no pilgrimages to the Holy Land because it was under the control of the Muslims. Therefore he had churches hewn out of living rock. They're magnificent. They're really wonderful works of sculpture and architecture. Because there could be no visits to the Holy Land, Lalibela would take the place of Jerusalem. Lalibela is a very small village. The only way to get into the village is by muleback or to fly in on a small plane and land on a meadow. So a group, I think the plane held fifteen, fifteen of us from St. Matthew Church went to Lalibela. Our trip was just before the revolution, before Addis Ababa was in turmoil after Haile Selassie was deposed. Our plane was the last one to fly into Lalibela before some very startling events. The next plane which flew in was blown up on the airstrip, the meadow. The people were allowed to get off the plane but the plane was blown up. There was almost no way for a modern vehicle, a car or even a jeep to get in or out of Lalibela. As I said, muleback was the only way. These people were stranded. There was a tiny hotel called the Mount of Olives, appropriately named for the Mount of Olives outside Jerusalem. These people were AID (Agency for International Development). They were housed in the Mount of Olives Hotel for about two weeks until Land Rovers managed to get over this terrain and bring them out. It was a hazardous trip and they were extremely lucky to get out without any injuries or fatalities. The last time we had heard of any people trying to go into Lalibela by jeep they had been killed. We felt extremely lucky to have been able to fly in and have a tour of these wonderful churches and get out safely.

When we left Addis, as a gift to Bob as the chaplain's warden, a lovely book ["Churches in Rock" by Georg Gerster. Phaidon Press Ltd., 5 Cromwell Place, London, S.W.7.] on the Rock-Cut Churches of Lalibela was presented to us by the church. It's rather nicely inscribed and the script is beautiful. We treasure this book. In the church in Addis, having so many different nationalities and such active people, we formed friendships among the Indians, the West Africans, the East Africans, and the British. We cherish the years in Addis Ababa and our connections with St. Matthew's Church. After Addis in 1976 we (had a direct transfer) to Ankara. Ankara is ancient Ancyra, the capital of Galatia. St. Paul's book to the Galatians was delivered to the early church people in Ancyra, which is now Ankara, the capital of Turkey. I'll tell you first about our own church. Again it was an Anglican church. It was St. Nicolas Church, built on a little "piece of pie" within the compound of the British Embassy. Ataturk had decreed in 1922 after he became president of Turkey that no more Christian churches could be built. Those in existence could operate. There was no Anglican church in Ankara at that time. The Anglican church had been in Istanbul, which of course had been the Ottoman Empire capital, "The Sublime Port". So the only way to have an Anglican church in Ankara was to build it on British property, and that meant building it in the British compound. It was a charming church. It was small. It was designed by a Scandinavian, a Finnish architect. We loved that church. It was beautiful, and we had many happy associations with the people of this church. David Palmer was the chaplain and he almost immediately asked Bob to be his warden. Since David was a bachelor, obviously I, as the warden's wife, became active on what should have been an altar guild. David and we became and remain close friends.



Toward the end of our stay, the bishop transferred David from Ankara to Rome. Shortly before we left Ankara, Bob and I had a holiday in Sicily and we flew back to Rome on Christmas Eve to attend David's church. He has visited us here in the United States several times. He was with us just a year ago, and so we have continued our friendship.

St. Nicolas church was fascinating. We didn't have the twenty-two nationalities which we had in Addis, but we had a few Scandinavians, Greeks, many British and some Americans. Because St. Nicolas was the patron Saint, always on St. Nicolas Day, which is December 6, the church had evensong, and after the service it was the custom to go to someone's house and have a reception. That reception was almost always at our house. We had about eighty people every time and the tradition was to serve mulled wine and small mince pies. Well, I don't make small mince pies so Bob and I supplied the mulled wine and the British ladies supplied the small mince pies.

The church planned an expedition to the bishopric of St. Nicolas which was at Myra on the Southern shore. Myra is known in Christian circles, also, because it was from the port of Myra that St. Paul embarked on one of his missionary journeys. A busload of thirty-eight of us from St. Nicolas went to Myra over the Thanksgiving holiday. It seems strange because that was not a British holiday, but it was determined that that would be a good time to go. Actually the bus tour was a little treacherous because we had a big snowstorm. We knew it would be a long full day's drive and that we would not arrive until after dark, in Antalya which was a few miles from Myra and the place (where) we would spend the night. Bob and I, with help from our staff, prepared turkey sandwiches and I've forgotten what else, a little snack lunch. We would then arrive in Antalya and have a late dinner. That lunch was welcome because with the snow it made the trip much slower and we did not have time to stop any place for lunch. In fact, we were too late for dinner at the hotel.

We had a happy group on that trip. We went to Termessos, a famous ancient site which was one of the few places that Alexander did not conquer on his way through to the East because it is situated on a hill. I would say the hill is probably 7,000 feet straight up, actually a steep sided mountain. Alexander decided it was too dangerous to try to scale the hill and take the town. Termessos survived. This ancient Roman city of Termessos survives, however, only in ruins because an earthquake partially demolished many of the temples, the Agora and buildings, but there is enough of the theater, enough of the city gate left that it is a beautiful site worth visiting. It is a long climb. One has to leave any motor transportation at the foot of the mountain and climb, but we did. It's a little treacherous in the snow but we were glad we did it. One other time in Turkey we made that trip by car ourselves and we went to Termessos in the Spring. It was much easier than it was in the snow. We were glad we saw it. The trip to Myra we shall long remember because the St. Nicolas Church was very special to us and going to the seat of the St. Nicolas' bishopric really meant a great deal to all of us.



I do want to end with one other point of interest. When we were in Addis, Bob was accredited to ten countries in East Africa. One of those countries was Malawi. Malawi is the heart of Livingstone country. We took a seven-day trip, cruise on Lake Malawi, which formerly was called Lake Tanganyika. And then it became Lake Nyasa, which is a contradiction of terms. Nyasa means lake, so in Swahili it is Lake Lake but was known as Lake Nyasa, now Lake Malawi. It's an inland sea. To traverse it took seven days and we stopped at twelve ports. Two of the ports we called at were heavily involved in the Livingstone story. (David Livingstone, Scottish missionary and explorer in Africa 1841-52). Livingstone had his small mission at one of these sites on the lake and the second one - Likoma - had a church built entirely by missionaries, none of whom was an architect. It is a small replica of the Cathedral of Winchester in England. And it was unbelievable to see this small cathedral in the proportions of a great cathedral in England built entirely by missionaries who had no training.

Q: What kind of building?

CALDWELL: Sandstone, local sandstone. Of all the treks which Livingstone made through the bush from that part of the heart of Africa naturally we have read in several books, one in particular, Livingstone's Lake by Oliver Ransford, published by Murray of London.

In closing I do want to mention two missionary doctors whom we knew. In Karachi Dr. Henry Holland, a missionary doctor, was an ophthalmologist and most of the people in the hinterland of Pakistan had no access to skilled surgeons. He was so famous and so in demand that even in his eighties he would stop at train stations to perform cataract operations and was never paid by any of these people. We came to know him, his son, also a doctor, and his daughter-in-law. They were at our house for dinner several times. They were marvelous people and the work they did in Pakistan was outstanding. The son and daughter-in-law still live in Pakistan.

Q: Was he American?

CALDWELL: No, he was British. Dr. Henry Holland has died. The book called The Frontier Doctor chronicles his life. A wonderful man and a great surgeon and a great humanitarian.



The other person is Dr. Ida B. Scudder who comes from a long line of medical missionaries. The Scudder family have been missionaries for years in the Middle East, in the Arabian peninsula, and in India. Dr. Ida, Dr. Ida B's aunt, was the founder of the hospital in Vellore, which was the first hospital to train women doctors in India. There were many muslim doctors in India who were all men, and the muslim families would not let these male doctors treat their wives. Many women died because of lack of medical attention. When young Ida Scudder coming from boarding school in the U.S. visited her family in India, she made the statement, repeated to us by Dr. Ida B., her niece, "Well I'm never ever going to come to India and carry on the tradition of my family. I'm not going to do this." There was a story that in Kerala where some of her family lived, a man came to her father who was a medical missionary, and said his wife was extremely ill. But of course Dr. Scudder, the male doctor in his family, was not allowed to visit her and what could he prescribe? Well, you know doctors are very reluctant without seeing a patient or even knowing what the symptoms are, to prescribe medication. The woman died. Dr. Ida B. told us that while her Aunt Ida was in Kerala she changed her mind about practicing medicine in India. Ida Scudder not only came back to India but she founded the first hospital in Vellore to train women doctors in India who would be permitted by their families to treat muslim women. Vellore started as a very small training hospital. It has now grown, it is international in scope (and) has doctors from America, England, Australia, New Zealand, Scandinavia and many other countries. It's a very big hospital and still a training hospital for women doctors. Ida B. became a close friend of ours; she often stayed with us in Madras. She was invited down every year to the university to help with medical examinations, and she always stayed with us while she was there in Madras for three or four days. Our first call on her after our arrival in South India was in Vellore. Later, we stayed with her on several occasions in Kodaikanal where a house had been built for "Aunt Ida". It had been built by the Dodge family who had been great friends of the Scudders. It was a lovely house called "Hilltop", and several times we stayed with Dr. Ida B. in that lovely house in Kodaikanal. It was at the highest altitude in Kodai. Kodai is about 7500 feet and "Hilltop" was just slightly higher. I remember from the garden one could overlook the plains of Madurai which were at least fifty miles away, a very beautiful setting. The Scudders were, and are, wonderful people. The services which they have rendered to the people in the Middle East and in India are just outstanding.

From this recording I think it's evident that our churches and church related activities throughout our Foreign Service career really enriched our lives.

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## BIOGRAPHIC DATA

Spouse's name: Robert W. Caldwell

Date entered Service: 1943 Left Service: 1979



Husband's positions: Consular Officer; Economic reporting Officer; Political Officer; Labor Attaché<sup>1/2</sup>; Acting Consul General, Labor Attaché<sup>1/2</sup> and Political Officer, Ethiopia & Turkey

Status: Wife of retired FSO

Date and place of birth: 12/24/16, Monroe County, Missouri

Maiden Name: Painter

Parents:

Harry Franklin Painter, Businessman

Mildred Horton Painter, homemaker

Schools: Monroe City High School, Monroe City, Missouri; University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri

Date and place of marriage: Athens, Greece, March 12, 1945, St. Paul's Anglican Church

Profession: State Department of Education, Jefferson City, Missouri; U.S. Foreign Service; FS Auxiliary (1944)

Positions held in Washington and at post: Taught at Athens College, Athens, Greece; volunteer service all other posts

End of interview